FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-062
Friday
2 April 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-062 *2 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Reportage on Bangkok Human Rights Conference 1
Thailand Accuses U.S. of Protectionism *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 31 Mar]* 1
NGO's 'Outraged' *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 31 Mar]* 1
Burma Issues Warning *Bangkok THE NATION 1 Apr]* 2
Amnesty Rejects Allegation *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 1 Apr]* 3
Clergy 'Grievously Persecuted' *[Bangkok THE NATION 2 Apr]* 4
Rights Paper 'Watered Down' *[Bangkok THE NATION 2 Apr]* 4
Dailies Comment 5

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

IMF: Yen's Strength Leaves Room To Cut Rates *[KYODO]* 6
Miyazawa Says Yen Rising 'A Little Too Fast' *[KYODO]* 6
Soviet Union 'Dumped' Reactors in Sea of Japan *[KYODO]* 6
Central Eurasian Officials Complete Training *[Tokyo TV]* 6
Takano To Discuss DPRK With ROK, PRC *[Tokyo TV]* 7
Legislators Urge Tokyo Action on Burma Issue *[KYODO]* 7
LDP Submits Political Reform Bills to Diet *[Tokyo TV]* 8
Cabinet Members Comment on Economic Measures *[Tokyo TV]* 8
Postal Savings Continue Attracting Deposits *[KYODO]* 8

North Korea

Reaction to DPRK Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues 8
ROK Minister Remarks Criticized *[Pyongyang Radio]* 8
Envoy to UN Interviewed on Issue *[London BBC TV]* 10
Li Peng Opposes UNSC Talk on Issue *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
North Denounces U.S. 'Perpetual Occupation' of South *[Pyongyang Radio]* 11
South Uses Police To Halt Anti-U.S. 'Struggle' *[KCNA]* 11
U.S. 'Intensifying' Trade Pressure on South *[KCNA]* 12
Vice President Yi Chong-ok Meets Indian Counterpart *[KCNA]* 12
Law Society Condemns Japan's 'Anti-Humane Crimes' *[KCNA]* 12
Daily: Japan Avoids Compensating 'Comfort Women' *[KCNA]* 13
Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties *[IRNA]* 13
Han Min-chol Named DPRK Ambassador to Vietnam *[KCNA]* 14
First Quarter Economic Targets Filled Ahead of Schedule *[KCNA]* 14
Institute Develops Agricultural Machinery *[KCNA]* 14
Daily Lauds Socialist Educational System *[KCNA]* 14
KCNA Reviews 2 Apr Pyongyang Press 15

South Korea

Reaction to Transfer of DPRK Nuclear Issue to UNSC 16
ROK 'Countermeasures' in Step With UNSC *[YONHAP]* 16
DPRK Urged To Accept Inspections *[YONHAP]* 16
Minister Regrets Transfer of Issue to UNSC *[YONHAP]* 16
Minister Cautious on North Contacts *[YONHAP]* 17
UNSC May Adopt 'Moderate Resolution' *[YONHAP]* 17

YONHAP Views Possible UNSC Action 17
UNGA Leader Stresses PRC Role *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Apr]* 18
PRC Continues To Supply Crude Oil, Food to DPRK *[YONHAP]* 18
Japan Strengthens Economic Cooperation With DPRK *[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN 2 Apr]* 19
Mexico To File Dumping Suit Against South Korea *[YONHAP]* 19
Government Removes Capital Defense Command Commander *[YONHAP]* 19
Kim Yong-sam Replaces Defense, Warfare Generals *[YONHAP]* 19
Kim Yong-sam Reshuffle of Army Posts Examined *[YONHAP]* 20
Defense Ministry Announces Military Reform Plan *[YONHAP]* 20
Defense Ministry To Open Budget Spending Accounts *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Apr]* 20
National Security Agency Changes Orientation *[YONHAP]* 21
Representative Chong Tong-ho Voluntarily Leaves DLP *[YONHAP]* 21
DLP Corruption 'Crisis' May End With Chong Departure *[YONHAP]* 22
Dissident Coalition Apologizes for Division, Insincerity *[YONHAP]* 22
Sin Pok-yong Becomes Bank of Korea Deputy Governor *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Apr]* 23
Government Selects 50 Projects for 100-Day Economic Plan *[YONHAP]* 23
Correction to Blix Report to IAEA Board 23

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Editorial Laments 'Distressing Signals' in Cambodia *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 31 Mar]* 24
Central Bank: Monetary Policy Curbs Inflation *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 31 Mar]* 24
Reports 8 Percent Growth in 1992 *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 31 Mar]* 25
Prime Minister Pays Visit to Uzbekistan *[Cross-reference]* 25

Cambodia

Sihanouk To Resign as Head of State After Elections *[AFP]* 25
Khmer Rouge Blamed for Attack on Video Arcade *[AFP]* 26
Government Soldiers Reportedly Join Khmer Rouge *[Radio VGNUFC]* 26
Phnom Penh Troops Kill 3 FUNCINPEC Members *[Radio VGNUFC]* 27
Defense Ministry Condemns Khmer Rouge Attacks *[SPK]* 27

Indonesia

MP Calls for Review of Currency Control System *[Jakarta Radio]* 27
TEMPO Views Costs of Purchasing German Ships *[13 Mar]* 27

Philippines

Congress Approves Emergency Powers for Ramos *[AFP]* 28
Manila Radio Notes Approval 29
German Minister Meets Romulo, Departs for SRV *[Hamburg DPA]* 29
Welcome for U.S. Charge 'Not So Enthusiastic' *[MALAYA 2 Apr]* 29
Congress Passes Energy Crisis Act *[Manila Radio]* 29
Poll Body Proclaims Winners in ARMM *[Quezon City TV]* 30
Ramos Swears in New Leaders *[AFP]* 30
Favors Changes to ARMM Organic Act *[Manila Radio]* 30
Dutch Justice Secretary Denies Asylum for Sison *[Quezon City TV]* 31

Thailand

Democrat Minister: SAP Will Not Leave Coalition *[Bangkok Radio]* 31
Editorial Urges Forcing SAP Out of Coalition *[BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]* 31
Former NPKC Leader Urges Acceptance of Assets Ruling *[BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]* 32
U.S. Envoy Discusses IPR With Deputy Premier *[THE NATION 2 Apr]* 33
Government Urged To Sign Tape Pirating Memo *[BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]* 33

Government Conveys 'Concern' at Cambodia Killings *[BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]* 34
Cambodian Refugees' Repatriation Continues *[THE NATION 2 Apr]* 34
Princess To Visit Cambodia 5-6 April *[Bangkok Radio]* 34
Government Delays Signing Pact With Laos *[THE NATION 2 Apr]* 34
Government Gives Rural Development 'Top Priority' *[THE NATION 1 Apr]* 35

Vietnam

Reportage on Visiting Lao Party-State Delegation 36
Radio Welcomes Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* 36
Party, State Leaders Welcome Visitors *[Hanoi Radio]* 37
Do Muoi Talks With Khamtai Siphandon *[Hanoi Radio]* 37
Khamtai Receives Gold Star Order *[VNA]* 38
Do Muoi, Vo Van Kiet Host Banquet *[VNA]* 38
Vientiane Radio Reports Visit 38
U.S. Companies Poised To Compete for Market *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]* 39
Le Duc Anh Greets Air Defense Corps *[Hanoi Radio]* 40
Haiphong Conference Discusses Returned Refugees *[VNA]* 40
Nong Duc Manh Discusses Constitution *[Hanoi Radio]* 40
EC Ambassador Discusses Vietnam-EC Relations *[VNA]* 40
VNA Reports Winter-Spring Rice Planting Figures 41
NHAN DAN Editor-in-Chief Visits Japan *[VNA]* 41

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Government 'Unconcerned' With U.S. Trade Report *[Melbourne International]* 42
Evans: Sanctions Against DPRK May Be Needed *[AFP]* 42
Government Agrees Not To Deport Vietnamese *[AFP]* 42
Monthly Current Account Deficit Improves *[AFP]* 43
Treasurer Details National Savings Plan *[AFP]* 44
70% Support Republic; 'Worst Week' for Loyalists *[AFP]* 44
Aid Promised to Solomons for Bougainvillians *[Melbourne International]* 45

New Zealand

Germany's Kinkel Ends Visit, Prepares for SRV Visit *[Hamburg DPA]* 45

Reportage on Bangkok Human Rights Conference

Thailand Accuses U.S. of Protectionism

BK3103013393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Thailand yesterday condemned the use of workers' rights as protectionist motives just days before facing possible trade action from the United States for failing to enforce copyright and patent laws.

"Threats of trade retaliation by foreign countries which use workers rights for protectionist motives are the main obstacles to the promotion of workers' rights in developing countries," Thai Ambassador to Geneva Tet Bunnak told a regional human rights meeting here.

"In most cases, it distorts the objectivity in the human rights debate and confuses the public opinion in the target country," he said in remarks to the Asian preparatory meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights taking place in Vienna in June.

Thailand is currently listed as a "priority foreign country" for special scrutiny by the US Government under Section 301 of the 1988 US Trade Act. Washington has demanded more political rights for Thai state enterprise workers as a main condition for Thailand retaining special import duty exemptions under the US Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

The Thai Government is reviewing the 1991 State Enterprise Labour Relations Law and has introduced a draft bill for the establishment of a Labour Affairs Ministry, said Ambassador Tet. He said the rights of the child and workers are "high on Thai land's national agenda".

The ambassador also pointed out that the Thai Government had adopted a "clear policy to combat prostitution and sex tourism". But he maintained that more international cooperation was needed in effective enforcement of laws against what was "considered a contemporary form of slavery".

The ambassador was speaking to delegates from 49 countries who have converged in Bangkok to prepare for the human rights conference in Vienna.

Chinese Ambassador Jin Yongjian [name as published] demanded respect for state sovereignty as the basis for the realisation of human rights. He also insisted on respect for the right of countries and peoples to choose their own political system, economic structure and "road to development". But "the right of the people to self-determination cannot he misrepresented as an excuse to instigate or foment splits to a nation or state", he said.

Mr Jin blamed the "unreasonable and unfair international economic order" for obstructing developing countries from enjoying human rights. He urged international cooperation based on "mutual respect" and called for avoiding the use of the UN forum as "a place for one country to launch political attacks against other countries in the name of promoting human rights".

Japanese representative Embassy Minister Seiichiro Otsuka [name as published] said human rights "should not be sacrificed for development" or be a "prerequisite" for it. But he repeated the calls of the Official Development Assistance Charter, adopted in June 1992, for attention to questions of human rights and democracy in a country being considered for development assistance.

Mr Otsuka called on regional states to set up the machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights. He said while stressing that such a regional machinery would be "far from easy" to establish, a "step by step" approach should be established beginning with "exchanges of experience and information" at regional and subregional levels.

Indian chief delegate L.M. Singhvi called for promotion of human rights from the grassroots, notably through the dissemination of "human rights literacy among the common masses of the people". He said an independent and impartial judiciary was vital to any remedial system against violators.

Mr Singhvi said a rationalisation of the UN system regarding human rights was needed "to obviate the cobwebs of confusion and wastage of resources". He described terrorism as "the greatest enemy of human life and human rights" and called for the creation of an "effective international legal regime" to combat it.

NGO's 'Outraged'

BK3103011593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpts] While Asian NGOs may not have been too pleased with the various statements by the official delegations to the ongoing Asian regional meeting on human rights, they were outraged at the statement made by former Thai foreign minister Thanat Khoman.

Taking the stand, as speaker number two of the official Thai delegation to the Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights yesterday afternoon, Thanat called for:

"Private organisations which allow themselves the right to denounce others of human rights violations should be investigated regarding their impartiality and their independence and whether they have connection or receive support and directives from outside governmental sources. This is necessitated by their dubious behaviour when they vigorously denounce certain occurrences by becoming deaf and dumb on other occasions.

"Self-appointed private or even governmental sources, acting as if they have the authority or mandate from recognised international authorities, such the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees], the Center for Human Rights, or any organ which may be set up for that

purpose. Likewise, no measures devised by private sources, should be deemed to have compulsory compliance force, especially when they are applied selectively and discriminately. Parties which accuse others of committing human rights violations must be scrutinised to see whether they are clean and clear of such malpractice themselves. Charges of human rights violations which are not authenticated by appropriate international authorities should be dismissed, denounced, and declared illicit."

Mr Thanat said he put forward the suggestions in the hope that they will improve the observance of human rights and serve the general interest of our human society. NGOs said they viewed the statement by Mr Thanat as an embarrassment to the Thai government, following a positive and constructive torpedo by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at the opening of the regional meeting. Reporters and NGOs caught up with Mr Thanat as he was leaving the conference building and when asked to clarify his statement he said he supported Thai NGOs. "What I was referring to was Amnesty International (AI) and Asia Watch."

He said he had watched these two organisations for a long time and they were clearly politically motivated and biased. Representatives of the two organisations also caught up with the former foreign minister and both tried to question him. However, Mr Thanat accused Ed Garcia of AI of being a CIA man. He also suggested that NGOs and reporters re-read his statement. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Thai Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva said he could find no points in Mr Thanat's statement which contradict the official position of Thailand.

NGOs issued an official rebuke saying: "The Asian NGO Conference categorically rejects the points made by the Thai government delegation, the hostility, suspicion, and blatant prejudice expressed against human rights and the work the NGOs are doing. It was a clear attempt to discredit the work of human rights and human rights monitoring in general, as well as the protection of human rights victims and their families. It is a frightening attempt to turn back the clock and could have been more appropriate in 1976 than to this given movement in March 1993.

"It is deeply disturbing that the efforts by NGOs to carry on their work on universal principles and work through international agencies, such as the UN, was dismissed as 'self-appointed private sources acting as though they had the mandate from international bodies.'

"We believe this is also an attempt to violate the basic principle of human rights. The implication that NGOs are guilty of discrimination and double standards have named the wrong party, because it is too often the governments themselves that are quick to tarnish or to accuse NGOs with a brush of political bias while demanding that grave abuses committed by their security forces are not challenged.

"The Thai statement only reenforces the alarming trend towards intimidation, harassment and threat against Asia NGO which openly criticise the human rights records of their own governments.

"I would also like to add that choosing two international NGOs, such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch, is very alarming because it points to an attempt to divide the human rights community in the world: on one side, the international NGOs and on the other side, the local NGOs.

"The attack on the independence and integrity of NGOs is an attempt to detract from the role of NGO as a watchdog for the government compliance to international standards," the NGO statement read.

Burma Issues Warning

BK0104035193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] Burma yesterday warned outsiders not to dictate human rights standards to the military junta, saying the principal of non-interference must be fully respected.

Speaking at the inter-governmental Asian Regional Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Bangkok yesterday, the Burmese representative U Win Mra said Asian countries with their own norms and standards of human rights should not be dictated to by a group of other countries who are far distant geographically, politically, economically and culturally.

"In considering human rights, it is most important to take into consideration differences in political, economic, social and cultural conditions," he said.

"If judgement is pronounced without taking into consideration these differences, it is bound to be erroneous and counter-productive," the delegate added.

"The principle of non-interference in matters falling within the domestic jurisdiction of states—the pnnciple firmly enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be fully respected."

In August 1988, the Burmese military opened fire on thousands of pro- democracy demonstrators killing hundreds. In 1990, the ruling military junta—the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc)—refused to recognize the general election results held in May that year. The opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) which won over 80 per cent of the seats, were denied the right to form the government.

NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained under house arrest by Slorc, since July 1989.

Defending Slorc's actions in 1988, Win Mra said his government had been able to restore law and order after the "anarchic situation that prevailed in that period."

"We believe that democracy cannot prevail in an atmosphere of anarchy. In order to have democracy, firstly law and order must be established," he told the meeting.

Wi Mra said his government was now taking every systematic step to promote respect for and observance of fundamental human rights in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and Rights.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission in its current sitting in March slammed Slorc for their continued human rights abuses against the Burmese people. Slorc was also condemned for their continued detention of Aung Sann Suu Kyi.

The commission also unanimously adopted a resolution extending for a further period of one year the mandate of UN Special Rapporteur Yozo Yokota of Japan.

Responding to the Human Rights Commission resolution, Win Mra said Special Rapporteurs and UN special representatives should not base their reports on subjective, distorted and one-sided information obtained through individuals or groups or individuals who are engaged in anti-government activities.

"Terrorist insurgent groups or their representatives should not, under any pretext whatsoever, be given a chance to make abusive use of human rights forums," he said.

On Tuesday, the leader of the Malaysian delegate to the meeting, Datuk Zainal Abidin Alias, said Malaysia was concerned about the declared policy of certain developed countries to use compliance with international human rights norms as a conditionality for extending socio-economic assistance.

"As development and human rights are mutually supportive, there is an imperative need to increase and enhance multilateral cooperation in the implementation of socio-economic development strategies," he added.

Zainal said Malaysia believes the promotion and protection of human rights at the international level could be better served through constructive dialogue and cooperation.on the basis of principles of the UN Charter such as respect for national sovereignty.

The London-based Amnesty International has expressed concern over the detentions of political prisoners in Malaysia under the Internal Security Act, which allows for detention without trial.

Amnesty Rejects Allegation

BK0104025193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Amnesty International has written to Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri stressing its impartiality and rejecting an allegation that it is a "front" for any foreign organisation or government.

The letter, signed by Legal Office head Helena Cook, referred to comments made by Thanat Khoman to the Regional Meeting for Asia of the World Conference on Human Rights. Mr Thanat is a former foreign minister and senior adviser to the Thai delegation.

The controversy erupted when Mr Thanat accused the human rights organisations Amnesty International and Asia Watch of being fronts for the CIA during the plenary session on Tuesday.

Mr Thanat yesterday denied that he had criticised Thai NGOs but said that his remarks were aimed at "certain foreign organisations which, by strict definition, are not NGOs [Nongovernmental Organizations] and not reputed for their impartiality."

In its letter to Sqn Ldr Prasong, Amnesty International (AI) also cited an incident in which Mr Thanat was alleged to have told one of its delegates Professor Edmundo Garcia, that he was a CIA man.

AI pointed out that Mr Garcia was a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission which drafted the Philippine Constitution and was principal author of the provision which created the Human Rights Commission in the Philippine Charter.

The human rights organisation requested an immediate and full retraction of the allegation of CIA involvement made against Professor Garcia and also asked the Foreign Minister to address the allegations made against AT and to reaffirm the role of non- governmental organisations in working towards the promotion and protection of human rights Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek stressed yesterday that Mr Thanat's comments on foreign non-governmental organisations were an expression of his personal opinion. He added that Mr Thanat was entitled to express his personal views which could be formed on the basis of certain details he might have of the organisations concerned.

Mr Sakthip argued that foreign human rights NGOs which had been active in Thailand and critical of its performance should listen to criticism of their own organisations.

"If they are acting in good faith, they should not be angry," the spokesman said. "The people will decide whether the criticisms are true," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri refused to comment on Mr Thanat's remarks, which were made outside the conference hall of the Asian regional meeting on human rights.

Squadron Leader Prasong said only that the comments made by Mr Thanat inside the conference hall were in line with his remarks and those of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

Speaking to reporters yesterday evening, Sqn Ldr Prasong maintained that he had not seen the letter from Amnesty International.

But he said he would be prepared to meet representatives of the human rights organisation.

Clergy 'Grievously Persecuted'

BK0204031993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p A5

[By Somchit Sithurongtham]

[Text] The Buddhist clergy and devotees claim they are still being grievously persecuted by the Vietnamese Government.

Since the collapse of French rule in Vietnam in 1954, the communist regime—first in North Vietnam after 1975 in the south—has allegedly maintained a policy of political oppression, human rights violations and religious persecution.

"The communist-dominated government began to suppress religions in Vietnam for fear that Vietnamese people would have faith in religions rather than the government," said the abbot of Canberra's Sakyamuni Buddhist Centre, Venerable Thich Quang Ba, during an interview with THE NATION.

He is attending the on-going Asian Regional Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Bangkok.

The Vietnamese-born Thich is among Buddhist clergy living in exile in Australia because they were unable to endure the communist regime's harsh treatment of religions in Vietnam.

About 85 per cent of Vietnam's 72 million people are Buddhists, while the rest follow Christianity or folk religions.

Thich believes the extent of his countrymen's faith is the reason the GORSV [Government of Republic of Socialist Vietnam] has established a state-run organization called the Buddhist Church of Vietnam (BCV), aimed at controlling the majority of Vietnamese people.

Before BCV was established, the Ho Chi Minh City government and authorities in other provinces had arrested a number of high and middle-ranking leaders of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) because of their beliefs and activities, Thich said.

Leading members of the state-run church are for the most part former high-ranking members of the UBCV who were coerced into changing allegiances, he said.

There are at present three Buddhist clergy who are members of the Vietnamese Parliarnent, according to Thich. "But we don't blame these monks. They have to accept it because there is no other way to survive. It is the government that deserves to be blamed."

In order to effectively control BCV the government placed its party control organization, the "Fatherland Front", to administer the new church.

The State does not allow religions to resume normal activities in accordance with traditional beliefs. Any activity that is perceived as a threat the government will be dealt with according to the Constitution.

Thus, said Thich, some UBVC clencs were imprisoned or tortured to death because of their opposition to the state established congregation.

The Most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, 75, was held under arrest by the communist govemment from 1952-54 and 1977-79 and has now languished in prison another 10 years, according to Thich Quang Ba.

Thich Huyen Quang is the Patriarch of UBCV, which is widely recognized by the people as the legitimate inheritor of the 2000-year-old Buddhist tradition in Vietnam.

Rights Paper 'Watered Down'

BK0204022993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p A1, A2

[By Kulachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Asian governments were in hot dispute over a resolution regarding human nghts abuses which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) say could be used as an excuse to prevent international monitoring.

The Bangkok Draft Declaration of the Asian Regional Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights, which ended yesterday, emphasized the universality of human rights, respect of national sovereignty and consideration of linguistic, cultural and religious differences in countries in the region.

But the question of self-determination for people of certain states and non-interference of international organizations and outside governments in human rights abuses domestically was hotly debated by China and some Arab countries who put forward hardline views.

The role of NGOs in the promotion of human rights was also watered down in the draft declaration.

The drafting of the declaration was prolonged due to some countries objecting to the inclusion of specific human rights problems.

A call for urgent recognition to be given to the situation in Cambodia, Burma and East Timor was omitted from the document, but the question of Palestine was mentioned in the context of supporting the legitimate struggle to restore Palestinian rights to self- determination and independence.

The rights of women and children were agreed to without extensive debate.

Cecilia Jimenez, spokeswoman for the NGOs, said it was a positive sign that the draft emphasized universal human rights and that civil and political rights should be given equal emphasis to economic, social and cultural rights.

She also praised its provision for promoting and protecting women's rights.

But she said much of the rest of document reflected pressure from hardline states like Iran, Burma, Indonesia and China, which have been heavily criticized for abusing human rights.

"In a way it could be said to be anti-human rights," she said.

"Collectively Asian governments intend to reduce outside monitoring of human rights in their countries. In this case it's just an instance of bad faith on the part of certain Asian governments."

A copy of the draft resolution seen by THE NATION stresses "an urgent need to democratize the United Nations system, eliminate selectivity and to devise procedures which would strengthen international cooperation based on principles of equality and mutual respect".

It also stresses "the principles of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as noninterference in the internal affairs of states and the non-use of human rights as an instrument of internal pressure".

Another clause says "any attempt to use human rights as a condition for extending development assistance" should be discouraged.

Dailies Comment

BK0204081493

[Editorial Report] Two Bangkok dailies—SIAM POST and MATICHON—on 2 April carry editorials commenting on the dispute between former Thai Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman and international nongovernmental organizations [NGO] during the Regional Meeting for Asia of the World Conference on Human Rights at the ESCAP Building in Bangkok on 30 March. The former foreign minister attended the meeting as the representative of the Thai Government.

SIAM POST's 400-word editorial on page 4, headlined: "On the Human Rights Forum," reviews the responses from Amnesty International and Asia Watch to the former foreign minister's statement delivered at the meeting calling for the investigation into the impartiality, incentives, and independence of the nongovernmental organizations in making accusations against Thailand and other countries regarding human rights violations.

The editorial notes: "However, no NGO has come up with any reaction when a number of villagers in Khon Kaen Province recently closed the highway and indiscriminately felled trees in the reserved forests to protest against the government's land reform project. The NGO's, despite their past dedication to the preservation of natural environment, did not even reprimand such reckless behavior on the part of the protesters.

"Here is another point for consideration. On 28 March, NGO's called on the Thai Government to release 38 Burmese students who were being detained at the Bang Khen Private Police Training School for they could not pay the fines for their illegal entry into the country. They also wanted the government to give the political refugee status to the Burmese illegal immigrants, disregarding the fact that the latter have violated the country's Immigration Act.

"Considering the behavior and activities of the NGO's in some cases, their impartiality as well as independence should be examined. They often take extreme action."

MATICHON's 450-word editorial, on page 8, entitled: "The International Dispute," notes: "Generally speaking, the quarrel between Thanat Khoman and the Western organizations reflects the conflict of opinions regarding human rights in terms of its definition, limits, and management between the Asian and Western nations. For example, the Asian countries totally disagree with their Western counterparts over the retaliatory actions to be taken against the Burmese military regime for the violation of human rights in that country.

"As for the NGO's, they should be open-minded enough to listen to any kind of criticism, right or wrong, and must not let it discourage them. Partiality, if any, must be corrected. It is not impossible for human rights to be violated in developed countries. They must keep watch on every country impartially and without prejudice against any government. It takes patience and time to fight for the rights and freedoms for the people in the whole world."

Japan

IMF: Yen's Strength Leaves Room To Cut Rates

OW0204023493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 1 KYODO—Economists at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) believe that the yen's gains against other currencies provide Japan with room to cut interest rates as a way to stimulate its economy, an IMF source said Thursday.

The source said work is now under way within the IMF to review economies in the major industrial nations and it is not wide of the mark to point out that the yen's rise creates RWO Points [11 AM].

Miyazawa Says Yen Rising 'A Little Too Fast'

OW0204075493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed concern about the yen's sharp advance against the U.S. dollar Friday. Speaking to a group of reporters, Miyazawa said, "The pace of the Japanese currency's rise is a little too fast."

The premier made his remarks as the yen surged to 114.20 yen in Tokyo interbank trading after climbing to a record intraday high of 113.50 yen during the morning session. But in response to questions about the possibility of a yen-selling intervention by the Bank of Japan, Miyazawa said only that such a move is up to the finance minister.

Soviet Union 'Dumped' Reactors in Sea of Japan

OW0204042693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0155 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] London, April 2 KYODO—The former Soviet Union dumped two reactors in the Sea of Japan in 1978 and 16 others in the Kara and Barents Seas between 1966 and 1991, the environmental group Greenpeace said Thursday [1 April].

Greenpeace said a Russian Government report on the disposal of radioactive waste in waters surrounding Russia established that the former Soviet Navy had been dumping radioactive material since 1959. It said the Soviet Union dumped two reactors in 1,000-meter deep waters, about 700 kilometers north of Fukuoka, western Japan, or off North Korea.

The level of radiation of the two reactors is estimated at 1.7 trillion becquerels. Greenpeace said the level is comparatively low because they have no fuel.

Of the other 16 reactors, six contain fuel. They, having a total radioactive content of 85,000 trillion becquerels, were dumped in the Kara and Barents seas, the report said.

The Soviet Navy continued dumping radioactive waste in the Barents Sea, as well as of liquid and solid radioactive waste in the far eastern seas in 1991 and 1992, the report said.

The report also detailed a serious accident during a reactor refueling operation at Chazma Bay in the Russian Far East in 1985. As Navy workers removed a reactor lid, the control rods were lifted, leading to "an uncontrolled spontaneous chain reaction."

The report said 10 men died and surrounding areas were seriously irradiated. The report said the former Soviet Union did not give the International Maritime Organization or the International Atomic Energy Agency any information about the dumping. The report was submitted to President Boris Yeltsin in February.

The commission of inquiry on questions relating to the dumping of radioactive waste at sea was chaired by Alexey Yablokov, a presidential special adviser on environmental and health issues. It was set up three days after the Greenpeace ship Solo was released by Russian authorities late last year, the environmental group said.

The Solo was attempting to document the sinking in 1981 of a damaged nuclear submarine together with two nuclear reactors off Novaya Zemlya in the Kara Sea.

The greatest potential danger is from the reactors of nuclear submarines and the screen assembly of the atomic icebreaker Lenin with spent nuclear fuel, dumped in a shallow bay of the archipelago Novaya Zemlia, the report said.

Greenpeace called on U.S. President Bill Clinton and Yeltsin to bring to an end the era of nuclear-powered navies by declaring a nuclear propulsion ban.

Central Eurasian Officials Complete Training

OW0204055793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Report by Takashi Wakigawa, NHK Economic Department correspondent; Central Eurasian officials speak in Russian with Japanese translation provided in subtitles; translated from the Russian; Central Eurasian names and titles are transliterated from Japanese captions; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] [Announcer] As we just reported in the first news item, the situation in Russia is becoming more confused. Meanwhile, three Central Asian republics—for example, Kazakhstan—have declared their independence from the former Soviet Union and have sent young officials for training at agencies such as the Ministry of Finance [MOF] with the purpose of learning financial and monetary management techniques from Japan, so as to promote the shift to a market-oriented economy.

[Begin recording] [Wakigawa] Transactions today were the second largest this year for the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE]. The group inspected the TSE today.

They are senior finance and banking officials from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. They are all part of a young elite; their average age is 42.

[Toremizov, Kazakhstan vice finance minister] It was interesting for me, as an individual as well as someone working in the area of finance, to see how this looked in action. We want to use your experiences. We are also thinking about establishing our own stock exchange.

[Wakigawa] The group received a large part of their training—which lasted for two weeks—at the MOF. The major interests of these officials, whose countries are suffering from extreme inflation and financial deficits, cover various aspects of Japan's economic policies, including a strict financial policy with an extremely downsized budget and a tax system that seeks to foster private enterprise. This is the same type of system that Japan adopted during its post-war period.

[Yoshimasa Nishimura, director of the Research Institute on Financial and Monetary Issues under the MOF] I think they have come here for this training just as officials from our country did during the Meiji era. Since they are around 40 years old, they are very young when the fact that they are all senior officials is taken into account. I am impressed that they are doing their best to learn many things in a positive way.

[Wakigawa] It was at the closing reception, held on the last day when the tight schedules all came to an end, that they relaxed.

[Toremizov] Japan became an industrialized country in a short period of time in the post-war period. I think that today Japan, one of the world's leading countries, is an example to the whole world of how people who work hard can achieve this if they have the will.

[Nigmatov, Uzebekistan Central Bank director] We believe that we can get a great deal of cooperation from the Bank of Japan in reforming the financial system, the banking business, and the field of statistics. That is why I think we have a lot of problems, which it is essential that we solve, and I think that Japanese banks can play a major role in this.

[Wakigawa] The group left Narita Airport for their respective countries; however, they seem to place great expections on Japan, the economic power of Asia. [end recording]

Takano To Discuss DPRK With ROK, PRC

OW0204124393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] In connection with North Korea's decision to pull out of the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty [NPT], the Japanese Government will send a Foreign Ministry official to South Korea and China next week to ask the two nations to urge North Korea to reverse its decision. Although the United States and South Korea are continuing their diplomatic efforts to have North Korea reverse its 12 March decision to withdraw from the NPT, North Korea has refused to retract its decision. As a result, North Korea's decision to withdraw from the NPT is due to be referred to the UN Security Council. In response to these developments, the Japanese Government has decided to send councilor Takano in charge of Japan-North Korea normalization talks in the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry to Seoul and Beijing under the guise of negotiating economic matters. Mr. Takano plans to affirm with South Korean officials the South Korean Government's intention to uphold the NPT, along with Japan. At talks with Chinese officials, however, Mr. Takano intends to ask that the Government of China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, exert its influence for North Korea's return to the NPT.

The Japanese Government intends to urge North Korea to retract its decision to pull out of the NPT through contacts with North Korea in Beijing, where Japan-North Korea normalization talks have been held with the cooperation of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Legislators Urge Tokyo Action on Burma Issue

OW0204123393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO –A group of over 400 Japanese legislators on Friday urged the government to put pressure on Myanmar [Burma] for the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and some 3,000 other political prisoners.

Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP), a minor opposition party, handed letters bearing the signatures of 422 members from both houses of the Diet, to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono. The figure accounts for about 55 percent of Japan's 764 Diet members.

Eda told a news conference later, "I hope these signatures, which represent a majority of both chambers of the Diet, will open the way for Japanese legislators to become more vocal in speaking up against human rights oppression in various Asian nations."

The signatures include those of 119 Diet members from the governing Liberal Democratic Party and 185 from the main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party. Komeito is represented by 44 signatures, the Japanese Communist Party by 26, Democratic Socialist Party by 16, Democratic Reform Party (formerly the Rengo Sangiin group) by 10, the USDP by five and the Japan New Party by four. The letters also bear the signatures of 13 independents.

The petitions were accompanied by a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in which the legislators urge him to "do everything in your power" to press the Myanmar junta to free Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who has been under house arrest since 1989.

Eda visited the United Nations on March 16 and turned over 354 signatures that had been collected by that time to a senior aide to Butrus-Ghali. Eda said he will quickly send the remaining 68 signatures to the U.N. secretary general.

LDP Submits Political Reform Bills to Diet

OW0204133493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] submitted four bills for drastic political reform to the Diet on the evening of 2 April. These bills include the introduction of a single-seat constituency system to the House of Representatives and measures to strictly control political funding.

On the same day, the LDP held an emergency meeting of LDP legislators on political reform. At the meeting, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa called on all the LDP members to make efforts in one united body to have four political reform-related bills pass the current Diet session. Prime Minister Miyazawa has proposed a ban on the exchange of political funds between politicians so as to draw a clear line between official and private use donations.

Mr. Miyazawa said that it is necessary for all the party legislators to be closely united to pass the political reform bills into the law. He said that, although it would be difficult, a way can be found if they try hard to seek public understanding and maintain a dialogue with opposition parties. Mr. Miyazawa, then, said that he wants to propose that all political funds to the party go to political institutions; and that individual politicians be prohibited from either exchanging or possessing such funds.

To ensure that the ban is strictly observed, the prime minister said that he asked the party's secretary-general to announce guidelines for handling political funds and set for functions for providing information within the next month [May]. He said that these messages would be painful, but, only the pain would help the party to reduce its stain. The proposal made by Mr. Miyazawa was accepted by all participants in the meeting.

Cabinet Members Comment on Economic Measures

OW0204132393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] During the cabinet meeting held today and a subsequent news conference, various cabinet members commented on the comprehensive pump-priming package that will be formulated as early as mid-April. Among those who made the comments, Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA], indicated his view at the news conference by stating: Concerning the issue on how to account for the budgetary revenue, it may become necessary for us to consider whether to issue deficit-covering bonds, depending on how future talks between the ruling and opposition parties will proceed over such issues as tax cuts. At the outset of today's meeting, cabinet members confirmed the plan to finalize the additional comprehensive pump-priming package on 13 April, prior to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to the United States. In this connection, EPA Director General Funada, stated: Special consideration should be given to improving living conditions and culture-related functions of the society, in order to help boost our country to a life-style super power.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi also indicated his plan to work out a draft supplementary budget to go along with the pump-priming package. In connection with this pump-priming package, EPA Director General Funada, while stressing that it was only his personal view, made the following statement during the news conference, held after the cabinet meeting:

[Begin Funada recording] Concerning the issue of how to account for budgetary revenues, we have to exercise caution about issuing deficit-covering bonds when we consider the difficulties we faced in the past, such as overcoming the problems that resulted from issuing them. However, if the situation warrants this, it may become necessary for us to consider issuing these bonds. Therefore, at the present, I cannot say that we will never issue deficit-covering bonds. [end recording]

Postal Savings Continue Attracting Deposits

OW0204085293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Postal savings registered their second highest net growth in fiscal 1992, reflecting a shift of deposits from banks because of declining interest rates, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry reported Friday. The ministry said the outstanding balance of postal savings stood at 169,698.8 billion yen, up 6,203.2 billion yen or 9.4 percent over the previous year. The year-on-year growth rate was the second highest following a rise of 11,658 billion yen recorded in fiscal 1991, the ministry said.

North Korea

Reaction to DPRK Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues

ROK Minister Remarks Criticized

SK0204020993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 2 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 2 April commentary: "New Traitorous Act"]

[Text] People at home and abroad resolutely reject the unjust maneuvers of the United States, the forces following it, and some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Secretariat, and consistently support and sympathize with the measure of the Republic's

Government declaring our country's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because of its rightfulness.

People who attach great importance to the nation's sovereign rights and treasure peace, are highly assessing the decision of the Republic Government as a just self-defensive measure to defend the nation's sovereign right and the country's supreme interest. They also express respect over the decisive measure of a country that is neither a large nor nuclear state, to resolutely stand face to face against the arrogant act of hostile forces like the United States who are running amok indiscriminately to realize their ambition of dominating the world by whirling around the nuclear club.

Any Korean should be proud of this. Nevertheless, the South Korean traitors who have the habit of selling the country to outside forces and selling the nation, once again are acting contrary to the nation's interest and the voice of the international community. This is evident in the remarks and acts of the so-called South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu during his recent trip to the United States and to UN Headquarters.

Han Sung-chu went on an 11-day junket to United Nations Headquarters, the United States, and Japan on 23 March. He went to the United States first. Upon arriving in New York, he busily prowled about here and there.

If he had had the slightest trace of national conscience, Han Sung-chu would have admitted that it was unjust for them, the United States, and some IAEA officials to pressure us in connection with the nuclear issue. He would also have said that this should be resolved within the nation according to the joint denuclearization declaration which the North and South adopted and effectuated, that the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea which constitute the real threat on the Korean peninsula, should be withdrawn or abolished, and that the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise should be suspended.

However, he behaved very differently. According to reports, he asked the UN Security Council to play a key role in resolving the North's nuclear issue. He also begged the United Nations to take strong measures against the North on a gradual basis, beginning with economic sanctions. In particular, during his confab with his U.S. masters, he even babbled about military sanctions against the North and the need to make efforts to remove the North's nuclear material production facilities and nuclear waste disposal sites. In short, he said the issue of imposing sanctions on us would be resolved through the UN organization at all costs.

How can we describe such acts by Han Sung-chu? In short, he is prowling about while betraying his fellow countrymen and committing traitorous acts against them. Han Sung-chu's acts make the fellow countrymen very angry and disillusioned with the South Korean regime, which alleges it is civilian.

Our withdrawal from the NPT was a dignified independent country's exercise of its sovereignty, and no one can argue about this.

The special inspections [tukpyolsachal] issue was brought about not by suspicions about our nuclear program; it was a byproduct of deliberate antisocialist, anti-Republic maneuvers by the United States to subject our Republic, vigorously marching along the socialist road, to international aggression and stifle it to death through collective pressures and sanctions.

Although well aware of this, the South Korean rulers have served as shock troops [tolkyoktae] in the special inspection commotions by the imperialist reactionaries. This very episode is an antinational crime that cannot ever be forgiven.

Under circumstances in which the United States and some IAEA officials misused the NPT to threaten the sovereignty and security of our country, a nonnuclear state, we have resolutely withdrawn from the treaty by exercising the rights of participant countries stipulated in the treaty.

The attempt by imperialist reactionaries, including the U.S. imperialists, to bring our issue to the UN Security Council is unreasonable both on legal grounds and in practice. This only shows that the U.S. imperialists are more openly maneuvering to obliterate our Republic and rule all of Korea.

But how on earth can a person entitled South Korean foreign minister, with the mask of a Korean, again become a shock brigade in maneuvering to place international sanctions against his fellow countrymen? This is a U.S. colonial servant's detestable, rash act to render all the people victim to a large country in return for the disgraceful, criminal act of maintaining power. This is also a warlike, imprudent act of fanning aggressive U.S. ambition of instigating vigilant hostility on the entire Korea and of lighting a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, which will destroy all countrymen.

When Han Sung-chu was nominated as foreign minister of the new South Korean Government, social circles and media of South Korea said he was pro-U.S. as he was educated in the United States and tamed as a U.S. servant. During his recent visit to the United States, Han Sung-chu fully uncovered his nature as a traitor who grew up under U.S. care, by betraying his fellow countrymen to completely advocate U.S. interests.

If imperialist reactionaries including the U.S. imperialists infringe upon our nation's sovereignty by putting any blockade or sanction on us, we will respond not only to the United States but also to the forces following it with strong countermeasures.

Han Sung-chu, the so-called South Korean foreign minister, must know that his act of trifling with the fellow countrymen by following foreign forces and of making

the country and the nation victims of big countries will result in nothing but his own ruin.

Envoy to UN Interviewed on Issue

LD0104153393 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 31 Mar

[Interview with Kim Chong-su, DPRK's ambassador to the UN, by presenter Jeremy Paxman, on 31 March; Kim in New York, Paxman in London; from the "Newsnight" program—live]

[Text] [Paxman] Well joining us now from New York is Kim Chong-su, who is the ambassador of the Korean Democratic Republic. Mr. Ambassador, are you building a bomb?

[Kim] We are building a bomb?

[Paxman] Are you building a bomb?

[Kim] No, it's a lie, we are not building atomic bomb, nuclear bomb.

[Paxman] Well then why won't you let the inspectors in?

[Kim] Because we allowed them to inspect our country on six occasions, showing them everything we have, but they now insist to inspect military bases.

[Paxman] So what is going on at Yongbyon?

[Kim] Yongbyon we showed on six occasions, all the nuclear facilities we have, but they now asked us, [changes thought] forced us to open ordinary military bases which we can never accept.

[Paxman] All they want to know is whether you are using enriched plutonium to build an atomic bomb. Now if you won't show them those facilities they are bound to entertain the suspicion. Aren't they?

[Kim] They have seen already everything, but according to the information delivered by a third country like United States, they say that we have nuclear facility in two sites, they have already inspected these two sites last year and they now again asking us to open these bases.

[Paxman] But if you let them in last year, why won't you let them in this year?

[Kim] Oh they have seen everything already.

[Paxman] Well if there was no problem about them seeing it last year, what's the problem about letting them see it this year?

[Kim] This year because it's an argument, ridiculous that we can [changes thought] we shall not open our military bases whenever they like, they want to do [as heard].

[Paxman] Do you think all countries should be free to tell the inspectors they cannot come in?

[Kim] No. Inspections are necessary and we were very glad to receive these inspections on these occasions, but if this IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] is used like a tool by big powers like United States, to make spies, to find out military information they can never be allowed to do that.

[Paxman] Mr. Ambassador, yours is a peace loving country isn't it?

[Kim] Yes, we were the first to declare that, [changes thought] to insist that our country—Korea, and Asia—should be de-nuclearized.

[Paxman] Now supposing if, as we've already heard from South Korea, and from the Japanese, there is enough worry about what may be going on in your country that they then have to ask for nuclear weapons themselves, wouldn't that be rather counter-productive?

[Kim] We have great worry about Japan and South Korea who are making great big preparations to produce nuclear weapons, but why do IAEA keep silent on these problems and why they keep silent on the nuclear bombs which United States have in South Korea, which is great menace, threat to us, and we hope that IAEA must be fair, and must be on the position of impartiality, not supporting [changes thought] not acting like a tool of United States, and they say that they will bring this issue to the United Nations, and this is ridiculous, and they say something about economic sanctions against us, but as far as the economic sanctions are concerned, it should be taken against the United States because this country has more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea, so they must be punished, instead of us.

[Paxman] So they should be punished. Mr. Ambassador are there any circumstances at all in which you will let the inspectors in?

[Kim] As far as the United States stops nuclear threat against us, as far as the IAEA comes back to the position of impartiality, this our position will never change.

[Paxman] Mr. Ambassador, thank you.

Li Peng Opposes UNSC Talk on Issue

SK0104231193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In a news conference held on 31 March, PRC Premier Li Peng made remarks on nuclear inspection of the DPRK. He said:

The PRC has maintained long-term friendship and cooperative relations with the DPRK. We neither encourage nor support nuclear proliferation. We feel that nuclear weapons should neither exist in the North of Korea or the South and that this can contribute to stability on the Korean peninsula.

The DPRK is a sovereign state. Therefore, international society should listen to their opinion. To solve this problem necessarily requires patience. I also recognize that if this

issue is referred to the UN Security Council [UNSC], it will by no means help solve this problem smoothly.

North Denounces U.S. 'Perpetual Occupation' of South

SK0204051493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "The Unchangeable Attempt for a Perpetual Occupation"]

[Text] The world is demanding that the U.S. imperialists, the ringleader of aggression and war, immediately get out of South Korea with all aggression forces, including nuclear weapons. However, the heads of the U.S. Army do not pay attention to the just demand but openly challenge the demand.

According to a report, in a meeting with the puppet foreign affairs' minister who visited Washington, Aspin, secretary of the U.S. Defense Department, raved that while the United States was reducing the number of U.S. soldiers overseas in order to cut military expenses, they would maintain U.S. soldiers occupying South Korea. He also raved that the U.S. promise on security is unchangeable.

Some time ago, the Chief of the General Staff of the U.S. Army raved that the U.S. forces should be constantly stationed in South Korea until the Korean peninsula becomes stable. This once again shows the U.S. imperialists' vicious attempt to forever hold on to South Korea as a colonial military base. Thus, his remarks are an unpardonable outburst.

The United States raved in the past that it should station U.S. forces in South Korea as deterrent forces to prevent someone's threat to invade the South.

However, the North and the South adopted and validated the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization. Thus, the North and the South confirmed that they should not invade each other. The cold war collapsed in the international arena. That being the case, there is no cause or pretext for the U.S. forces to remain in South Korea.

Even though the U.S. imperialists rave that the U.S. forces should remain in South Korea because the situation on the Korean peninsula is unstable, this is unreasonable.

As for the cause of the unstable situation on the Korean peninsula, this is precisely due to the United States. The United States deployed hundreds of thousands of U.S. forces and approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and threatened us. It aggravated the situation to an extreme by conducting the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, nuclear test war and preliminary war, with the South Korean puppets.

Worse still, the United States has driven the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of a war by constantly conducting various war exercises even after finishing the field drills.

The United States keeps its hold on South Korea as a colonial military base and nuclear forward base. It is trying to stifle our Republic and gain supremacy over the rest of Asia. This is the U.S. imperialists' unchangeable aggressive ambition.

South Korea is the U.S. imperialists' colony. Geographically, South Korea is a military strategic point linked to the Asian continent. For this reason, the U.S. imperialists would never let go of South Korea, the fat between its teeth.

The U.S. imperialists are saying that it will reduce the number of the U.S. soldiers staying at overseas countries owing to the cuts of military expenses. However, they are trying to maintain the U.S. imperialists' aggression forces in South Korea as they are. This shows that their strategy toward Korea and Asia is unchanged. This is actually proven by the fact that secretary of the U.S. Defense Department referred to the unchangeable promise on security to the South Korean puppets.

Just as a wolf's inherent nature is unchangeable, so the U.S. imperialists' inherent aggressive nature will never change. The U.S. imperialists are trying to constantly maintain their aggression forces in South Korea. This runs counter to the trend of the time for arms reduction. This is also an unpardonable crime which threatens peace and security of Korea and the rest of Asia.

The United States should not challenge the desire and aspiration of the Korean people and the world's people but withdraw all aggression forces, including nuclear weapons, from South Korea.

If not, the people at home and abroad will greatly denounce and reject the rascals as warmongers and disturbers of peace.

South Uses Police To Halt Anti-U.S. 'Struggle'

SK0204114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—The "police agency" at a joint meeting of department directors of local police agencies on March 30 instructed them to fix six months till September as a period of "180-day operation wipe out crimes", according to a radio report from Seoul.

The "police agency" decided to mobilize more than 65 percent of the whole police force in this operation under the pretext of "public peace."

This is a reenactment of the method of No Tae-u who hurled police troops to suppress people after declaring a "war against crimes", and one more fascist frenzy aimed at obliterating the anti-U.S., anti-"government" struggle of the people.

Students of the Seoul-Inchon District Federation of General Student Councils and Seoul National University thronged to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and the entrance gate to the U.S. 8th Army Base and demanded "a halt to

the U.S. interference in North's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty", discontinuation of the "Team Spirit" exercises and an immediate pullout of the U.S. Forces. Earlier, students in Seoul and Pusan staged demonstrations and sit-in strike, demanding the release of all prisoners of conscience, abolition of the "National Security Law", dissolution of the "Security Planning Board," etc.

People in Changsong County, South Cholla Province held a meeting and demonstration against the installation of a military drill ground.

The South Korean authorities are trying to block the advance of struggle of students and patriotic figures calling for independence, democracy and reunification on the plea of "wiping out crimes".

U.S. 'Intensifying' Trade Pressure on South

SK0204114493 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are intensifying trade pressure on the South Korean authorities, according to a radio report from Seoul.

It is proved by the fact that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in South Korea in an "annual report" submitted to the head office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. trade mission, the U.S. Department of Commerce and other home government offices on March 30 called for "retaliatory measures" against South Korea.

Complaining that the South Korean authorities were applying "restrictions" on 12 domains including access to the consumer market, intellectual property rights, bank, foreigners' investment and insurance, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in South Korea urged its home government to invoke Super 301 of the Trade Act.

It is no secret that the U.S. imperialists let fly to South Korea the first arrow of Super 301 of the Trade Act unilaterally stipulating the rights of investigation, judgement and retaliation against foreign markets.

By invoking this aggressive law they have had nearly all the markets of South Korea opened, arbitrarily fixed the currency exchange rate and helped their monopolies freely make their way into South Korea for monopolistic profits.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists are increasing trade pressure on South Korea demanding the total and complete opening of its markets.

This graphically shows the brigandish intention of the U.S. imperialists to establish a more complete domination over the South Korean economy and intensify colonial plunder.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok Meets Indian Counterpart

SK0204062693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0509 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of the great leader President Kim Il-song, met and conversed with Indian Vice-president K.R. Narayanan on March 26.

The Indian vice-president said he highly respects His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader.

He highly estimated the DPRK s stand to reunify the country in a peaceful way and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between India and the DPRK would grow stronger and develop.

He arranged a party for the special envoy.

During his stay in India, the special envoy visited the exhibition of Indian national handicrafts.

Law Society Condemns Japan's 'Anti-Humane Crimes'

SK0204005893 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The Korean Academic Society of International Law in an indictment March 31 exposed to the international community the Japanese imperialists' anti-humane crimes in having slaughtered millions of Korean people in cold blood during their occupation of Korea (1905-1945) and called upon the world public to put pressure on the Japanese Government to sincerely admit, repent of, apologize and compensate for the crimes.

According to the indictment, during the 41 years of their occupation of Korea the Japanese imperialists not only framed up, promulgated and brandished a great many murderous laws, such as the "act on summary trial of crimes", the "maintenance of the public order act," the "National Security Law", the "law on national mobilization" and the "labour draft law", to arrest, imprison, torture and murder in cold blood millions of Koreans, but also destroyed a large number of towns and villages indiscrminately, thus committing hideous crimes against mankind.

In view of provisions of international law, such crimes are political and anti-human acts of persecution based on imperialist colonial plunder, national discrimination and disregard and they are anti-humane crimes, the indictment said, strongly urging that prescription should not be applied to these crimes but they be roundly condemned and brought under appropriate legal sanctions.

It stressed:

"The Japanese Government, however, is stepping up its moves to turn Japan into a military power, a nuclear power and driving "Self-Defence Forces" on to overseas

aggression, while refusing to clearly admit, repent of and compensate for the never-to-be-condoned anti-humane crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people and mankind, although half a century has passed since then. This is an act of gravely threatening peace and security on the Korean peninsula, in Asia and the rest of the world.

"This unchanged stance of the Japanese authorities is a token of their outmoded way of thinking of the cold war era, which must never be tolerated by the international community today.

"It is a common task of progressive mankind for defence of the dignity of man and basic human rights at the present moment to put pressure upon the Japenese Government to sincerely admit, repent of, apologize and compensate for the crimes against humanity in carrying away 200,000 Korean women by force and making them sex slaves of the 'imperial army,' drafting more than six million Koreans and forcing them to slave labor and brutally massacring millions of Koreans.

"The Korean Academic Society of International Law appeals to the United Nations human rights organisations, non-governmental organisations concerned with the human rights problem, the International Investigation Committee on the Wartime Crimes of Old Japan, the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and other major international organisations, the political, public and press circles of Japan, the progressive people of the world, the governments, parliaments, political parties and organisations of all countries to lift up their voices and exercise necessary international influence to press Japan to officially admit, honestly repent of, apologize and compensate for the heinous crimes against humanity in massacring millions of Koreans in the past.

Daily: Japan Avoids Compensating 'Comfort Women'

SK0204060693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 2 Apr 93

["Mean Demeanor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government would reportedly set up a "fund," refusing compensations, for the "comfort women for the army" and the South Korean authorities decided not to demand "material compensation". This is a despicable act on the part of Japan to avoid compensation and responsibility in this problem in conspiracy with South Korea and shows glaringly the treacherous nature of the South Korean authorities, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says, and goes on:

The "comfort women for the army" is a matter which can never be solved through a "political settlement".

The key to its solution is for Japan to make a thorough probe into the truth behind it, publish its results and, at the same time, to honestly apologize and make adequate compensations for it. Up to date, however, the Japanese government authorities have failed to get anywhere in this regard under this or that pretext.

As far as compensation is concerned, it is not a matter merely confined to money. The ex-"comfort women" demand the Japanese government make a full investigation and apologize in explicit terms and make compensations as a material token of its repentance, with a view to recovering their human dignity e;bgnty as a dignified independent and sovereign state. Nobody is in a position to decry it.

Han Sung-chu's behavior is an accursed rash act of a colonial servant of the United States to leave the whole nation a victim of a great power. It is a disgraceful criminal act to maintain power in return for it. It is also a bellicose act to encourage the aggressive designs of the United States, which is watching for a chance of aggression, on the whole of Korea and to sow the seed of nuclear war that might exterminate the fellow countrymen on the Korean penicsula.

If the U.S. and other imperialist reactionaries try to encroach upon the sovereignty of our nation and destroy our socialist system with "blockade" and "sanctions", we would answer them with strong countermeasures not only against the United States but also its followers.

The South Korean "foreign minister" Han Sung-chu should clearly realize that his act of flouting the fellow countrymen by following outside forces and making the country and the nation a victim of great powers would only result in digging his own grave.

MINJU CHOSON condemns Han's behavior as a rash act of those who are running about recklessly, crestfallen and thrown into discomfiture, hard hit by the DPRK's self-defensive step of withdrawal, as an act of failing to look squarely at their own position and the demand of the times.

Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties

LD0104165993 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Beijing, April 1, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Hasan Taherian, held talks with North Korea's Foreign Minister, Kim Yong-nam, on promotion of bilateral ties in Pyongyang Thursday [1 March].

Pointing to the friendly relations between the two countries, the Iranian diplomat underlined the need for further expansion of bilateral economic-political relations.

Yong-nam, too, expressed Pyongyang's interest in boosting relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Washington's hostile propaganda against DPRK, he said Pyongyang is fully determined to withstand the U.S. pressure.

Han Min-chol Named DPRK Ambassador to Vietnam

*SK0204111093 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1035 GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Han Min-chol was appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Vietnam, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

First Quarter Economic Targets Filled Ahead of Schedule

*SK0204110493 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1011 GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—The plans for the first quater of the year were fulfilled ahead of schedule in different domains of the national economy in Korea.

These achievements have been reported from industrial establishments throughout the country which have vigorously carried on the increased production drive from the beginning of the year to glorify this year marking the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (July 27) with significant results in production.

In the mining industry the Kujang and Kangso district coal mining complexes, the Musan mining complex, the Taehung youth general mining enterprise, the Yongyang, Songchon and Munmuri coal mines and other units have overfulfilled their first quarterly assignments by far.

The targets were beaten ahead of schedule also by the Pyongyang thermal power complex, the Wiwon power station, the Changjagang power station in the power industry and by the Nakwon machine complex, the Sinuiju lathe factory, the October 5 general automation instrument factory, the Tongrim electric appliances factory and the Hamhung physical survey machine factory in the machine-building industry.

The Nampo smelting complex, the October 13 youth smeltery, the General Bureau of Salt Industry, the Chagang provincial General Bureau of Forestry and other main units of key industrial domains, the Pyongyang Municipal General Bureau of Garments Industry, the Pyongyang footwear factory and hundreds of other factories of the light industrial domain have topped their quarterly plans.

The Sangwon cement complex, the July 27 General Bureau, the Mangyongdae Aeguk aluminium sash factory, Nampo port and many other units of the building-material industrial and transport domains have also fulfilled their first quarterly assignments ahead of schedule.

Institute Develops Agricultural Machinery

*SK0204010693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1520 GMT 1 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The Agricultural Mechanisation Institute of the State Agricultural Commission of Korea have manufactured highly efficient farm machines.

The rice transplanting and deep manuring machine and the weeding and deep manuring machine can do rice-transplanting and manuring, weeding and manuring simultaneously with fertilizer drums attached to the rice-transplanting machine and weeding machine.

The machine for broad spraying of fertilizer can manure more than 20 hectares of paddy fields a day, pulled by a tractor.

The machine for making ridges between rice fields is well spoken of for its good efficiency.

The institute is now pushing ahead with the contrivance of over 20 kinds of highly efficient farm machines including a deep-manuring machine for maize fields and a maize harvester combine while consolidating the achievements they have made in realizing the comprehensive mechanisation of rice cultivation.

Daily Lauds Socialist Educational System

*SK0204110893 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 2 Apr 93*

["Advantages of Socialist Educational System"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "Advantages of Socialist Educational System Under Which Everyone Studies".

The paper quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"In our country people are enjoying long life and good health thanks to the free medical care system and all the people study to the best of their ability throughout their life and develop ceaselessly under the most advanced system of free compulsory education."

The author of the article says:

Education is given through the educational system, which is an important component of a social system.

Our socialist educational system is the most advanced and advantageous one. Its advantages lie, above all, in that it strictly and substantially guarantees the people the right to study.

Our country established a regular educational system, first of all, and enforced universal compulsory education stage by stage. Under this system, all members of the

rising generation are guaranteed the right to study on the highest level. In our country, higher education is developing on this basis.

The right of all the members of society to study is also ensured by the study-while-working system.

The advantages of our socialist educational system find concentric expression in the universal free education system.

All the working people are completely free from the burdens of educational fees. As a matter of fact, our free education is unprecedented in its scope and level and it is a communistic policy in the field of education.

The advantages of our socialist educational system also lie in that it helps bring up people into revolutionary personnel with independence and creativity through the application of the basic principles of socialist pedagogy.

Take the universal 11-year compulsory education for example. It is compulsory education revolutionary and scientific in content, which proceeds from the basic principle of socialist pedagogy based on a scientific educational system. Accordingly, it contributes to the education of the rising generation into revolutionary personnel possessed of independence, creativity and consciousness.

The advantages of our socialist educational system also find expression in that it serves for bringing up children to be masters of society and reliable reserves of the revolutionary cause of chuche through their collective nursing and education under the care of society.

With the national system of nursing and educating children, our country nurses and educates them to meet the requirements of the socialist system and thus rears them to be people of revolutionary personality. This means the realization of the centuries-old desire of the Korean people in our country.

KCNA Reviews 2 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK0204060493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], Communist Party of India (Marxist) and news that he was presented with a gift by the general secretary.

Works of President Kim Il-song were disseminated and studied in different countries, says NODONG SINMUN.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks in the name of the party Central Military Committee and the supreme commander to leading officials and working people who have set examples in consolidating relations between the army and the people, according to the press.

Given in the press are accounts of a meeting held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of registration of Comrade Kim Chong-il as an honorary farmer of the Wonhwa cooperative farm in Pyongwon county, South Pyongan Province, and a symposium on the chuche-based literary and art idea held oo mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of his classical work "theory of cinematic art".

NODONG SINMUN devotes almost one whole page to an article titled "Scientist's Brilliant Life in Great Bosom of Leader" on the life experiences of academician, Prof. and Dr. Mr. Yi Song-ki, a Kim Il-song prize laureate, who is director of the Hamhung branch under the Academy of Sciences.

Papers carry economic briefs from different sectors of the national economy.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article on the superiority of the socialist educational system in Korea.

Party and government cadres appreciated part 12 of the multi part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" portraying Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a photo-illustrated article introducing the Songdowon intercational children's camp which has been built splendidly in Wonsan city on the East coast of Korea.

The DPRK ambassador to Rwanda presented credentials to the Rwandan president, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON round up voices of the world public supporting the DPRK Government statement on withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) under the block-letter titles "Any 'Threat' and 'sanction' Cannot Frighten Korean People" and "Withdraw Move To Force 'special Inspection' of DPRK".

Appearing in the press are commentaries lashing out at the South Korean "foreign minister" who had visited the United States and the UN headquarters to beg for "blockade" and "sanctions" against us.

NODONG SINMUN says that NEW KOREA TIMES, Korean compatriots' newspaper published in Canada, rejected the military tieup between South Korea and Japan. MINJU CHOSON prints an article exposing the move of the Japanese judicial circles for the revival of militarism.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary denounces the maneouvrings of the Japanese Government to gloss over the problem of "comfort women for the army".

Serialized in the press is an indictment of the Korean academic society of international law exposing the heinous crimes against humanism in massacring millions of Koreans during the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea.

Papers carry news that the first session of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China closed and the Thai prime minister visited the Philippines.

South Korea

Reaction to Transfer of DPRK Nuclear Issue to UNSC

ROK 'Countermeasures' in Step With UNSC

SK0204062493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea will focus its diplomatic spotlight on North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and rejection of nuclear inspections now that the matter has been referred to the U.N. Security Council by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a high-ranking government official said Friday. Because of the importance of actively participating in the international response to the North Korean problem, the government would detail countermeasures in step with the Security Council, he said, requesting anonymity.

On Thursday, the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog declared that North Korea had violated an agreement on safeguarding nuclear materials by missing the March 31 deadline to accept special inspections of suspected nuclear sites North of Pyongyang and that the problem would thus be forwarded to the Security Council. In defiance of international pressure, North Korea unilaterally announced its departure from the NPT global nuclear control pact on March 12. Its withdrawal becomes official on June 12.

While keeping options for inter-Korean dialogue open, Seoul is to take care that inter-Korean or U.S.-North Korea contacts do not affect the security council efforts, the official said. Judging the position of China, a crucial permanent member of the security council with veto power to block actions against North Korea, the government would do its best to build a global consensus to invite Beijing to join the international stance on nuclear development by its communist ally, he said.

After Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu returns Friday from a trip to the United Nations, Washington and Tokyo to discuss the matter, a unification-related ministerial conference and a full cabinet meeting will reexamine government measures based on the results of Han's tour. Because Seoul and Washington agreed on much of Seoul's approach to the issue during Han's visit, there would be little change in policy, the official said. South Korea would actively support the joint statement by the United States, Russia and Britain, and encourage other major countries to do likewise, he said.

DPRK Urged To Accept Inspections

SK0104125293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1242 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—A Foreign Ministry official, saying the resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the transfer of the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council was a natural outcome, urged North Korea on Thursday evening to accept IAEA inspections of their undeclared facilities.

In a comment on the adoption of the IAEA resolution, the official said the decision to brand North Korea as a violator of the nuclear safeguards agreement and to turn the case over to the U.N. Security Council was a natural outcome in view of the IAEA efforts made thus far to negotiate with and persuade North Korea over the nuclear question.

"The IAEA resolution reflects the serious concern of the international community about the suspected nuclear development by North Korea and also the community's resolute determination to resolve the issue," the comment said.

The official added that the Seoul government urges that North Korea reverse its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at an early date and accept IAEA inspections, correctly aware of the determination of the world community.

Minister Regrets Transfer of Issue to UNSC

SK0204124193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1228 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang said on Friday it was highly regrettable that the North Korean nuclear issue has been referred to the U.N. Security Council [UNSC]. "Since cooperation in the world communisty [as received] should come first in order to resolve the nuclear question, we will refrain from making any hasty dialogue proposal to North Korea for the time being," Han who also serves as unification minister said.

While meeting with reporters, Han, however, suggested that the South would carry on talks with the North on the question of dispersed families without regard to the nuclear issue, by saying "but, we will not link dispersed family and other humanitarian questions to the nuclear issue." He observed that since there is a time to use before Pyongyang's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty comes into effect on June 12, persuasion efforts would be made toward North Korea by the United Nations or the International Atomic Energy Agency. "There won't be immediate sanctions like economic blockade against North Korea simply because of the transfer of the nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council," Minister Han said.

Minister Cautious on North Contacts

SK0204131293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1305 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said on Friday evening he had agreed with the U.S. and Japan to employ a "stick and carrot" policy toward North Korea with respect to the nuclear issue instead of one-sidedly driving Pyongyang into a corner. "This policy seems to have bolstered the stand of China toward North Korea as China is expected to play a significant role in the resolution of the nuclear question," Minister Han said.

While meeting with reporters upon his return home from a trip to the U.S. and Japan, the foreign minister rejected the possibility of direct contacts between South and North Korea over the nuclear issue. "Since the issue is much of international nature at the moment, top priority should be placed on its resolution from this angle," Minister Han said.

He said that if the nuclear issue emerges as an inter-Korean matter, it would dilute the need of international inspection of North Korean facilities. There is no change in the need of inter-Korean inspections, Han said, but the matter was not discussed seriously during his trip.

Turning to the issue of summit diplomacy, Minister Han said Korea and the U.S. had substantially agreed that their summit meeting would take place before or after the G-7 meeting slated for early July in Tokyo. Korea and Japan, too, shared the view that it would be desirable to hold a Korea-Japan summit meeting in the near future as soon as an atmosphere ripens through the resolution of pending issues including the question of "comfort women," he said.

UNSC May Adopt 'Moderate Resolution'

SK0204015193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, April 1 [date as received] (YONHAP)—The U.N. Security Council [UNSC] is likely to adopt a moderate resolution against North Korea next week which calls for its reversal of its decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The council is expected to draft a soft resolution simply expressing concern about North Korea's NPT withdrawal and rejection of special IAEA investigations and urging Pyongyang to change its mind in consideration for China's opposition to U.N. sanctions and the possibility of diplomatic settlement of the issue, according to sources.

The resolution will be adopted after IAEA Director-general Hans Blix visits the United Nations Tuesday to report on the special IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna on Thursday, when it was resolved to refer the matter to the Security Council. U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said Thursday that the United Nations should not waste time in seeking a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, South Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Yu Chong-ha said after meeting the secretary-general. Yu said North Korea would change its mind if it weighed the advantages of clearing away suspicion over its nuclear program against the disadvantages of not clearing away suspicion.

YONHAP Views Possible UNSC Action

SK0204053993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0514 GMT 2 Apr 93

[YONHAP Analysis by Hong Song-wan: "U.N.-North Korea Nuke Political Solution of North Korean nuclear Issue Eyed"]

[Text] United Nations, April 2 (YONHAP)—Now that the U.N. Security Council has taken up the North Korean nuclear problem, the South Korean mission to the United Nations, especially ambassador Yu Chong-ha, appears to be optimistic about a political solution. North Korea's national interest and the security council's general view of the issue, as well as the notion that the United Nations is the only resort left for the issue, probably caused such optimism.

Which better serves North Korea's national interest, to develop nuclear weapons in defiance of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) or to clear itself of the suspicion surrounding its nuclear program and rejoin the family of NPT nations? The leaders in Pyongyang must know that the latter is the right answer.

"Do they have any special reasons for developing nuclear weapons at the expense of making the world an enemy?" asks a diplomat at the mission. In view of the need for President Kim Il-song to hand over power to his son, Kim Chong-il, improved relations with other nations would be better than remaining an orphan of the world community, he observes. In this view, the mission has come to think that North Korea will opt for dialogue to solve its nuclear problem.

The Security Council also appears to be in a position to have dialogue with North Korea, not applying its policy toward Iraq and Bosnia to North Korea. In the course of such dialogue, the Security Council will represent the mounting world opinion that North Korea must change its nuclear policy.

The mission has found in its contacts with Security Council member nations that these nations are of the opinion that the issue should be resolved by June 12, the day when North Korea's pullout of the NPT takes effect. This means that many Security Council member nations want to solve North Korea's nuclear issue while it is still bound by NPT obligations.

Another mission member says that when the Security Council formally puts the North Korean nuclear issue on its agenda, North Korea will know where world opinon is on its nuclear program. In past IAEA meetings, it apeared to think it had many supporters.

China will stand in the way of the Security Council's effort to solve the issue, because it is opposed to the Security Council's handling of the matter, but it will change this stance now that the issue has been formally handed to the council, the diplomat says. The Russian ambassador to the United Nations said in his recent meeting with Yu that his country was against North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. In the South Korean mission's view, the North Korean nuclear issue will be solved through political dialogue, rather than through economic sanctions, because of North Korea's particular situation and world opinion on the issue, though China will be a stumbling block in the early phase of security council efforts to seek a political solution.

UNGA Leader Stresses PRC Role

SK0204050393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 93 p 2

[By staff correspondent Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] China will be a very important factor in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, the visiting president of the 47th United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] said yesterday. Stoyan Ganev said, "I think China will be able to persuade North Korea to reverse its position."

Pyongyang announced its decision on March 12 to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), and the International Atomic Energy Agency adopted a resolution Thursday to bring the issue to the U.N. Security Council. "The most important thing is to try to see a political solution through negotiations," said Ganev, expressing hope that the United Nations will come to a decision on the basis of the necessity of stability in the region.

Ganev came to Seoul Tuesday for a six-day trip at the invitation of the Korean government. He is the first president of the U.N. General Assembly [UNGA] to visit South Korea. "We need time, namely for consultations among the countries which are involved. The United States, South Korea, China and other countries are hoped to find a political basis for the solution of the crisis without sanctions," he explained.

He said that he will exchange views on the positive role of China when he visits Beijing next week. Ganev will leave for Beijing Sunday on the second leg of his seven-nation Asian trip. The other nations he will tour are Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

The UNGA president met with Prime Minister Hwang In-song and Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong during his stay here. He emphasized the U.N. role in the post-Cold War era, saying, "I am convinced the United Nations will become a more important instrument in ensuring international security." He added that the role and capability of the United Nations will adapt to the conditions of a changing world.

During this 47th session of the General Assembly which ends Sept. 20 this year, "we are discussing proposals for new forms of working for peace put forward by the secretary-general," he said. The report of the secretary-general entitled "An Agenda for Peace" was made through consultations with many governments, regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals, he added.

Ganev, 38, who graduated from Sofia State University's department of law in 1979, received the degree of bachelorship in science of constitutional law at Moscow State University in 1985. He became the leader of the Unified Christian-Democratic Center Party in Bulgaria in 1990, was elected a member of the National Assembly in 1990 and was reelected in 1991. He was deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria in November 1991. He is ambassador-at-large now.

PRC Continues Supply To Crude Oil, Food to DPRK

SK0204081493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—China will continue supplying North Korea with crude oil and food under a secret agreement reached during North Korean President Kim Il-song's visit to China in February, according to officials of trading houses in charge of trade with North Korea. The officials say their Beijing offices have reported that in return North Korea granted China concessions to develop the harbor at Najin.

China also agreed to solidify its friendly relations with North Korea, they said, noting its attitude to international pressure on North Korea over its nuclear problem. China was to suspend food and oil exports to North Korea this year unless it was paid in cash. The secret agreement is expected to boost trade between the two countries, which has been sluggish since late last year. They also say that North Korea and China concluded a treaty on development of the Tumen River basin on March 19.

The treaty, signed by Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the external economy commission, for North Korea and China's vice chairman of the state scientific and technological commission, allows China to develop and use the harbor at Najin. The two countries will jointly construct highways and railways linking Yanji with Tumen and Hunchun with Najin through Sonbong.

With the harbor concession, China can solve the transportation problem for soybeans and corn, major farm products of Northeastern China, and expedite its Hunchun area development project, the trade officials say. The trade agreement and Tumen River development treaty appear to have motivated China to oppose the International Atomic Energy Agency's resolution to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council.

The officials say that they have confirmed the information with their offices in China, Hong Kong, Japan and

the United States. These offices have maintained steady contact with North Korean firms and diplomats operating in these areas since North Korea's decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Japan Strengthens Economic Cooperation With DPRK

SK0204111393 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 2 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] There has been no progress in South-North economic cooperation since North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], but other countries, including Japan are accelerating their economic cooperation with North Korea. According to authorities and business circles on 1 April, Japan's (Hudo Shoji) [as published] Company is planning to increase the textile products to be processed in North Korea on commission, in spite of North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT.

The (Hudo Shoji) Company is operating seven garment factories, including one for men's suits, in North Korea. It has recently finished another new factory in Wonsan and ordered 160,000 winter suits and 120,000 jeans and jackets this year. This company sent Japanese technicians to North Korea at the end of last month to adjust facilities of its garment factories. Japan's (Yuka) Pattern System [as published] has been giving textile technology training to technicians at North Korea's Central Garments Engineering Institute since 26 March.

Germany is also strengthening economic cooperation with North Korea. It held a seminar on economic cooperation with North Korea in Dusseldorf on 22 March when North Korea was still in a state of semi-war. Seven German companies will send technicians to North Korea before the end of this month to hold technological seminars with North Korean technicians. In addition, Thailand and North Korea have recently agreed to open a direct line between Bangkok and Pyongyang and will send Thai tourists in a chartered plane to Pyongyang soon.

Mexico To File Dumping Suit Against South Korea

SK0204082193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0702 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Mexico is to file dumping suits against steel products of 11 countries, including South Korea, government and industry sources said Friday. Ahmsa steel co. of Mexico has filed dumping suits against seven U.S. steel companies and is preparing suits against steelmakers of Korea, Germany, Austria, argentina and Belgium.

Mexican importers of South Korean steel have told their trade partners here that Ahmsa officials hinted that their company would file dumping suits against foreign steel products. The Mexican Trade and Industry Ministry assigned 50 more officials to its anti-dumping investigation team in February to beef up its readiness to handle anti-dumping suits quickly and efficiently, sources noted.

In a related move, the ministry is to draw up a bill that allows a preliminary anti-dumping investigation on suspected imports. Last year, Korea sold steel products worth 44.97 million U.S. dollars to Mexico, up 69 percent from 1991.

Government Removes Capital Defense Command Commander

SK0204032293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0309 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The government removed Lt. Gen. An Pyong-ho as commander of the Capital Defense Command and Lt. Gen. Kim Hyong-sun as commander of the Army Special Warfare command Friday. Lt. Gen. To Il-kyu, deputy chief of staff of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, was named to replace An while Lt. Gen. Chang Chang-kyu, chief of the Army Headquarters Mobilization Office, will take over the special warfare command. Defense Ministry spokesman Pak Chae-uk said the reshuffle was part of President Kim Yong-sam's exercise of command over the military and the two generals would soon be named to new posts.

Kim Yong-sam Replaces Defense, Warfare Generals

SK0204092493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0848 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Commanders of two major army units were replaced in a surprise announcement on Friday. Lt. Gen. An Pyong-ho was replaced as commander of the Capital Defense Command by Lt. Gen. To Il-kyu, a 20th-class graduate of the Military Academy and deputy chief of staff of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

Lt. Gen. Kim Hyong-son, a 19th-class graduate, was replaced as commander of the Army Special Warfare Command by Lt. Gen. Chang Chang-kyu, a 21st-class graduate and chief of the Army Headquarter's Mobilization Office. To and Chang were also both promoted from major general to lieutenant general.

Gen. An, a 20th-class graduate, has been known to be a member of "Hanahoe," an fraternity of academy graduates that used to have an enormous influence over the military in past administrations. Former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u were founding members of Hanahoe.

Defense Ministry spokesman Pak Chae-uk said the reshuffle was part of President Kim Yong-sam's exercise of command over the military and the two generals would soon be named to new posts. "There will be a partial reshuffle in the wake of their replacement," Pak said, adding that it would not affect the top brass.

Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae was presiding over a meeting of senior commanders of the armed services when he was called in by President Kim and informed of the reshuffle. The action draws attention since it comes three months before a regular reshuffle of commanders of major units near the capital in June.

Kim Yong-sam Reshuffle of Army Posts Examined

SK0204092693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0856 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam's unexpected replacement of the commanders of the Capital Defense and Special Warfare Commands, which are lieutenant general-grade posts, lifts their replacements from obscurity to high-profile positions. Also surprising is that the action was taken just two months before the army's periodic reshuffle of high-ranking officers.

Kim, receiving new Capital Defense Commander Lt. Gen. To Il-kyu and new Army Special Warfare Commander Lt. Gen. Chang Chang-kyu in the presence of Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae at Chongwadae, said he had picked them because they "have the respect of junior officers for your high soldiership," according to presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae.

The reshuffle, together with the replacement of the Army Chief of Staff and the Defense Security Commander a few weeks ago, was seen as part of Kim's plan to reform the armed forces. A highly-placed Chongwadae source said Friday's reshuffle of the two key army posts should be a matter of course for the new commander-in-chief rather than an abrupt action. Noting that the Capital Defense Command and Army Special Warfare Command have long been politically connected posts, he said the reshuffle was intended to rid these commands in and near the capital of political connections and make them faithful to their missions only.

After receiving his new commanders, Kim told a staffer, "I picked them for their high respect in the army, but the promotion must have been a thunderbolt to them. What do you think of my action?"

Defense Minister Kwon personally informed Gen. Robert RisCassi, commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, of To's promotion because To was RisCassi's deputy chief of staff. The U.S. Army general was reportedly happy about his staff member's success.

Defense Ministry Announces Military Reform Plan

SK0204035093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry announced Friday a five-point military reform plan to participate in President Kim Yong-sam's drive to create a new Korea. It calls for eradication of corruption and irregularities, improvements in military structure, budgetary and management efficiency, a guarantee of professionalism and better welfare programs.

The ministry will revise recruitment, personnel and other regulations and policies to help root out areas of corruption and bring improvements. It will realign the command structure of sprawling military intelligence agencies, including the defense security and defense intelligence commands, so that they are more efficient. Moreover, it will endeavor to turn the infantry-intensive force structure into a technology-intensive structure and seek ways to balance development of the navy, air force and army.

Emphasis in the restructuring will be placed on maximizing combined war capabilities, developing strategies suited to the Korean theater, securing deterrence based on high-tech weaponry and managing personnel efficiently. At the same time, the ministry plans to make the defense budget public to increase transparency and turn projects of non-military purposes over to other government agencies.

Defense Ministry To Open Budget Spending Accounts

SK0204052193 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry will open the spending accounts of the nation's annual defense budget to the public as much as possible on a gradual basis in its endeavor to help meet the people's right to know. Spokesman Col. Pak Chae-uk said that the ministry would allow the citizens to know and understand spending items of the defense budget except such sensitive secrets as combat capability improvement projects.

The ministry has applied a tight gag rule to the defense budget accounts for fear that outflow of the defense spendings might have damaged national security. The defense expenditure accounts for more than 30 percent of the government's yearly budget.

Pak disclosed in the ministry's five key reformative tasks—eradication of irregularities, improvement of military structure, rational compilation of defense budget and its effective operation, guaranteeing career soldiers job security and betterment of treatment for professional servicemen and promotion of their welfare. The ministry, according to the spokesman, will brief every morning reporters on what is going on in the military.

The ministry seeks to exclude from the defense budget the maintenance costs of combat and maritime police forces. The Ministry of Home Affairs is legally obligated to finance the maintenance of the two forces. Pak said that the ministry would reshape the military structure vigorously without interruption in consideration of the future security environment.

Touching on the defense expenditure, Pak explained that the ministry would place a top priority on a sweeping realignment of the budget and enhancement of effectiveness in its spending. The far-reaching reorganization of

the military structure covers improvement of command echelon, modernization of combat capability and reshaping of units.

The task to guarantee career soldiers job security will be promoted in the direction toward extension of retirement age, improvement of the annual pension system, expansion of post exchange privileges to their family members. The ministry plans to forge ahead with improvement of treatment for professional servicemen and their welfare, putting a particular accent on low-rank personnel, that is, noncommissioned officers rather than on members of the officer corps.

National Security Agency Changes Orientation

SK0204034593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning, or the Angibu as it is commonly called in Korean, is a born-again counter-espionage agency. In line with the spirit of reform initiated by President Kim Yong-sam, the agency has reshuffled officials and restructured itself to shed its dark image of a feared manipulator of domestic politics and to become what it was originally intended to be: a collector of intelligence for national security.

Under the guide of its first ever civilian director, Kim Tok, a former college professor, the agency is now to concentrate only on gathering information on communist activities and intelligence both in Korea and abroad. Its predecessor, the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), patterned after the CIA of the United States, came into being following the military coup on May 16, 1961, led by then Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui. The KCIA wielded an enormous and unchallenged power in the 1960s and '70s as an apparatus for the successive authoritarian governments of former army generals, keeping the opposition in check through ruthless crackdowns, dirty tricks and intimidation.

In an effort to improve its image, the government of Chon Tuo-hwan changed its name to the present name in 1980, but it was like putting old wine into a new bottle. Its domestic political surveillance and manipulations for the interest of maintaining the establishment and the governments of presidents with military backgrounds continued.

One of the most drastic changes undertaken by Kim Yong-sam as the nation's first civilian president in 32 years was to restore the original function to the spy agency. The agency has abolished a department concerned with domestic politics and enlarged instead its function as counter-espionage activities. It will also break away from the past emphasis on anti-North Korea and anti-communist activities and concentrate, instead, on collecting industrial information abroad and preventing similar domestic information from leaking out of the country.

Any information it gathers in its investigations on domestic political crimes will be analyzed and relayed to the police and other pertinent government agencies for further investigation and prosecution. The agency will handle espionage and subversive activities exclusively.

With regard to its staff assigned overseas, the agency will let them gather industrial information and strategic interests for the country. They were instructed to stop acting "as a real power" in the operation of embassies and other missions in foreign countries. In order to help finance these activities, the agency decided to cut down other expenses, manpower and superfluous departments.

To that end the agency reshuffled some 40 director general-level officials, including chiefs of the 15 provincial branches, on March 25. It was followed by another juggling of personnel, shifting 50 percent of officials on section chief-level on March 30. Some 13 percent of redundant personnel were either sent to its institute for further training or assigned to research jobs. One agency official said the purpose of this reorganization was not aimed at weakening the agency but strengthening the agency's original function as befits the civilian government of President Kim Young-sam.

Representative Chong Tong-ho Voluntarily Leaves DLP

SK0204035593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Tong-ho voluntarily left the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Friday after vainly defying moves to expel him on suspicion of using his official position to amass personal assets. Chong, 57, called DLP executive chairman Kim Chong-pil and Secretary-General Choe Hyong-u on Friday morning and apologized for "causing trouble to the party." He then immediately launched the procedures to leave the party, officials said.

His departure from the ruling party came one day after the party ethics committee unanimously adopted a resolution to expel him from the party. As a result of his announcement, the party cancelled a meeting of all party lawmakers called Friday to pass the ethics committee resolution.

The two-term lawmaker and former army general was the third DLP lawmaker to leave the party in the wake of the scandal caused by the disclosure of personal assets by all 161 DLP lawmakers. Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly, and Yim Chun-won had already left the party under similar circumstances.

Prior to his departure, Chong was reported to have met with an unidentified high ranking DLP official who urged him either to leave the party or give up his seat in the National Assembly. Chong agreed to leave the party on condition that the party "take care of him" after his departure.

DLP Corruption 'Crisis' May End With Chong Departure

SK0204093093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—With the voluntary departure of Rep. Chong Tong-ho from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], the crisis caused by the disclosure of personal assets by DLP lawmakers came to an end Friday. Sighs of relief were almost audible, according to party insiders, when the news of Chong's intention to leave the DLP was relayed to the party leadership on Friday morning.

DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, the secretary general and other senior party officials huddled earlier in the morning to discuss how to pass a resolution adopted by the Ethics Committee Thursday to expel Chong at Friday's meeting of all DLP lawmakers. If a secret vote was taken on the Ethics Committee resolution, party leaders feared it could induce an apparent revolt by other members of the Democratic Justice Party faction within the party and damage President Kim's reform efforts.

Along with Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly, and Rep. Yim Chun-won, who left the party in the wake of the asset disclosures, Chong was a member of the Democratic Justice Party faction, once led by former President No Tae-u. Chong claimed that he was a sacrificial lamb in Kim's anti-corruption campaign just because he belonged to the Democratic Justice Party faction.

The DLP was formed in February 1990 through a merger of No's Democratic Justice Party, Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party. With Kim's election as president, the Democratic Justice Party faction, which had been the mainstream group in the DLP during the No government, claims that it was increasingly ostracized by the other factions, especially by Kim Yong-sam's followers.

By coincidence or design, most of the DLP lawmakers who were found to have amassed huge personal wealth and were urged, as a result, to leave the party or who received disciplinary action were members of the Democratic Justice Party faction. As the party leadership debated the method of voting on the Ethic Committee resolution, Chong called Executive Chairman Kim and Secretary General Choe Hyong-u and told them separately that he would leave the party voluntarily.

Informed sources said an unidentified senior party official met with Chong to persuade him for the last time Friday morning and wrenched his consent finally on condition that Chong would not be "prosecuted" for any possible wrongdoing if he left the party. The main opposition Democratic Party [DP], meanwhile, was having difficulty selecting candidates for by-elections in the Tongnae-A and Saha districts in Pusan and the Kwangmyong district in Kyonggi Province.

While the Democratic Liberal Party has already nominated its candidates for the April 23 elections, the Democratic Party was unable to come up with suitable people. Following the defeat in the December presidential election and subsequent retirement of party leader Kim Tae-chung, the elections will be the first test of the opposition party under Chairman Yi Ki- taek.

The Democratic Party hopes to win at least one National Assembly seat—in Kwangmyong, where Kim Tae-chung trounced Kim Yong-sam in the presidential election. Yi Ki-taek and members of the party's Supreme Council met on Wednesday and Thursday, but after exhaustive discussions they had failed to select any candidates, according to party sources.

Taken aback by the DLP's nomination of Son Hak-kyu, a prominent former dissident and professor, the DP wanted to put up an equally well known politician such as former Reps. Kim Chong-kil and No Mu- hyon. The DP leadership suggested Kim Chong-kil run in Kwangmyong and No to compete in Tongnae-A, but both Kim and No are said to be reluctant to run in either of the districts.

And in Kwangmyong, the party's choice of Kim Chong-kil was vehemently opposed by Choe Chong-taek, chairman of the district chapter, who wants the nomination for himself. Meanwhile, Yi Ki-taek has called a press conference for Saturday to express his views on the disclosure of personal assets and the political developments in its wake.

Dissident Coalition Apologizes for Division, Insincerity

SK0204093393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Kwangju, April 2 (YONHAP)—The Kwangju-South Cholla Coalition for Democracy and National Unification, a major local dissident group here, apologized Friday for having been "divided" and "not representing the sincere will of the citizens" on preventing President Kim Yong-sam from visiting the Mangwol-dong Cemetry, where victims of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising are buried. A statement issued by the coalition, however, said that President Kim should have met with representatives of associations of the Kwangju uprising victims even though he was hindered from visiting Mangwol-dong if he had wanted to solve the Kwangju problem.

Mangwoldong is revered as a holy place by democratic movements here. "We ask the president to positively accept the 15-point measure for solving the Kwangju problem that was agreed on Feb. 13 at the Paekyang Temple. If we are given a responsible answer to the problem, we will not oppose his visit to the cemetery," the statement said.

Sin Pok-yong Becomes Bank of Korea Deputy Governor

SK0204052493 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Sin Pok-yong, deputy superintendent of the Office of Bank Supervision [OBS], was named deputy governor of the Bank of Korea [BOK] at a meeting of the BOK policy-setting Monetary Board yesterday. Sin replaced outgoing deputy governor Yi U-yong who was appointed Industrial Bank of Korea president yesterday.

The Monetary Board also approved the appointment of Chang Ki-o, assistant deputy superintendent of the OBS as OBS deputy superintendent. Pyon Won-tok, chief of Examination Department I, was promoted to assistant deputy superintendent.

Sin, 58, has served in the Central Bank since 1959 and served in the post of OBS deputy superintendent for two years. Born in Taejon, Chungchongnam-to, he graduated from Seoul National University.

Government Selects 50 Projects for 100-Day Economic Plan

SK0204123493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1035 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The government has chosen a total of 50 projects to undertake under the "100-day plan for new economy." Deputy Prime Minister Yi Kyong-sik reported at an economic ministers meeting on Friday afternoon that 17 of the 50 schemes have already been under implementation and the remainder will be put into practice step by step beginning May 10. The meeting was held at the Kwachon government building in the presence of President Kim Yong-sam.

Yi, who is also economic planning minister, said seven working-level check teams and an overall implementation team will be formed among senior officials of relevant offices to ensure their effective implementation. The 50 projects comprise 13 designed to buoy business, 19 to improve the structure of small- and medium-sized industries, and seven to accelerate technological development.

Among the remainders, five projects are to improve rural conditions, another five to ensure price stabilization and one to innovate the way of thinking on the part of public officials. Meanwhile, President Kim instructed relevant ministers during the meeting to look thoroughly into the recent railroad disaster and rigidly punish every one, even top-level people, if found responsible for the incident.

After being briefed on the incident by Construction Minister Ko Pyong-u, President Kim said top officials of the Railroad Administration, municipality and the contractor involved must have known details of the digging that led to the sinking of the railroad to cause the mishap. "If the contractor were found to have done unfaithful work, the firm should be kept from taking part in any of future public work," the president said.

Correction to Blix Report to IAEA Board

SK3103114493

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "IAEA: DPRK 'Violating' NPT Duties," published in the 31 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 10:

Column one, make sourceline read: ...Seoul YONHAP in English 0024 GMT 31 Mar 93... (correcting GMT).

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Editorial Laments 'Distressing Signals' in Cambodia

BK0104133293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Mar 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Give Peace A Chance"]

[Text] The spate of suspected Khmer Rouge attacks against UN peacekeepers and civilians in Cambodia emits distressing signals about the violent lengths the Khmer Rouge is willing to go to disrupt the peace process. With election campaigning beginning in eight days, and elections to take place from May 23 to May 27, the timing of the attacks are perhaps meant as a harbinger of a blood- splattered election, and perhaps scuttling the one chance the country has in 13 years of turmoil, for some semblance of peace under a democratically elected government.

Within this month alone, Khmer Rouge guerillas have massacred at least 50 Vietnamese civilians. The Khmer Rouge is now not just holding UN personnel for ransom. One Bangladeshi soldier died in an attack on his unit in Angkor Chum, while there was another raid on a UN civilian police station.

Amidst the worsening security situation, questions are bound to arise about the role the UNTAC forces are playing in Cambodia and the role of the Khmer Rouge in the entire exercise. The UN-brokered peace accord was signed amidst such fervent hopes for democracy in October 1991; the arrival of the 20,000 strong UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia in March last year was warmly welcomed. Yet, what has it achieved? It has managed the repatriation of 370,000 refugees from Thailand and signed up almost 95 percent of the eligible voters for the May elections, two efforts which should not be understated given the attendants of death and injury which stalk every peace effort in the country.

However, its role to set up the conditions to bring the country towards national reconciliation is debatable. Now that its forces are coming under attack, should the UN take up arms and answer firepower with firepower or should it continue to answer aggression with restraint and mediation? Are the UN forces, culled from so many corners of the world, willing to sacrifice their personnel in any eventuality? While the countries of the world might be willing to lend their men to the UN for humanitarian purposes, will governments be able to justify the loss of lives of their men in a country which cannot help itself? The UN has to keep its men in place, its pride and its RM5 billion [Malaysian ringgit] at stake but it might also make it necessary to remain largely defensive in an offensive situation, which we hope will not encourage further aggression.

At the same time, the adherence to the Paris peace accord continues to legitimise the Khmer Rouge, even if they continue to practise the politics of fear, intimidation and violence as a means to an end. As its continuing recalcitrance shows, the Khmer Rouge appears determined to consolidate its position, its unforgiving nature seen in the continued persecution of civilians of Vietnamese descent in Cambodia. All the warring parties involved in Cambodia's future should realise that the country can ill-afford a continued offensive. The casualties are already too high. The lust for power has to have its limits.

As the UN is well aware, efforts to bring peace to Cambodia can never be easy. Like the hundreds of thousands of landmines still undetected in the countryside, its nascent peace effort can erupt into violence at any time. And like the hundreds of thousands of people killed or maimed by the explosions, the country has no choice but to hobble along on its journey towards unification. The world can only pray that it will not get blown to bits before it reaches its destination.

Central Bank: Monetary Policy Curbs Inflation

BK0104145693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Mar 93 p 19

[Text] The maintenance of a tight monetary policy stance since 1989 has led to an abatement in excessive consumer demand.

The report says the introduction of the Malaysia Savings Bond (which mobilised RM948 [Malaysian ringgit] million at a nominal value of RM1.4 billion in three days), stricter enforcement and price checks by the relevant authorities, the establishment of a Food Fund, and the reduction or abolition of import duties on more than 600 items should also contribute to lower domestic inflation.

It said the average inflation rate of 4.7 percent last year could well have been higher had it not been for the positive effects of lower inflation abroad.

Fortunately, the price hike situation in the industrial countries moderated to 3.1 percent in 1992.

This, coupled with the appreciation of the Malaysian ringgit, culminated in a decline in imported inflation in Malaysia.

Malaysia's consumer price index is expected to remain moderate in 1993 as there are no indications to suggest that inflation in the industrialised countries would accelerate.

However, the report warned that the situation cannot be taken for granted as imported inflation is unlikely to fall further on account of market imperfections and better prospects for a stronger world economic recovery in 1993 and possibly 1994 as well.

The report says under the circumstances, there can be no room for complacency on the inflation front.

Reports 8 Percent Growth in 1992

BK0104152593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Mar 93 p 19

[Text] The Malaysian economy continued to record another year of strong growth last year, albeit at a slightly slower pace.

Growth last year was maintained at eight percent compared to 8.7 percent in 1991.

Bank Negara said in its 1992 annual report that unlike previous years, overall growth in 1992 was supported mainly by the strength of the external sector, as the momentum of domestic demand moderated sharply during the year.

On a quarterly basis, growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remained strong at about nine percent during the first two quarters of the year.

Growth in real GDP was 6.4 percent in the third quarter before recovering to 7.5 percent in the final quarter of 1992.

The nation's overall terms of trade also improved by 3.2 percent (1991: 0.1 percent), mainly due to the decline in import prices (minus three percent) as export prices only increased marginally (0.1 percent).

On the whole, nominal per capita income increased further by 11 percent to RM7,541 [Malaysian ringgit] in 1992 or equivalent to about U.S.$2,780 (1991: 9.2 percent to RM6,796).

The report said that the private sector expenditure in particular slowed down significantly from 16.4 percent in 1991 to 2.3 percent in 1992.

This showed that pent-up consumer demand was satiated and also the coming on-stream of the bulk of the private sector's investment plans.

During the year, the balance of payments position improved significantly. The merchandise balance registered a surplus of RM7.3 billion (1991: deficit of RM461 million) as imports virtually stagnated (0.4 percent), where exports continued to expand (8.7 percent).

The central bank's international reserves increased by a record RM16.7 billion to RM47.2 billion at the end of 1992. For the first time in 12 years, the reserves exceeded the nation's external debt of RM41.4 billion.

After expanding in excess of 26 percent per annum in real terms between 1988 and 1991, growth in private sector investment outlays finally moderated to a more sustainable pace in 1992.

The report said gross national savings as a percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) increased to 32.3 percent compared with 28 percent in 1991.

As at the end of last year the ringgit appreciated across the board against all major currencies, the largest being against the pound sterling by 29.1 percent from the end-1991 level.

The price situation continued to be an area of concern with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rising steadily from 4.3 percent in March to peak at 5.3 percent in September.

The deceleration in growth in consumer spending was also reflected in the latest statistics on wages which showed that private sector wage settlements in 1992 provided for a weighted average increase of nine percent compared with 11 percent in 1991.

Arising from the sharp deceleration in the pace of private consumer spending, private sector savings increased significantly by 42.6 percent to a total of RM28.7 billion last year compared with an increase of eight percent and RM20.1 billion in 1991.

The total number of credit cards issued registered a decline of 0.2 percent last year compared with an increase of 23 percent the previous year.

Prime Minister Pays Visit to Uzbekistan

WA0104172793

For reportage on Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Uzbekistan and his meeting with Uzbek President Islam Karimov, please see the 1 April Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT.

Cambodia

Sihanouk To Resign as Head of State After Elections

BK0204142493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 2 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned here Friday despite warnings that his life might be in danger, and issued a statement saying he would quit as Cambodia's head of state after elections in May. The prince, who normally enjoys engaging in repartee with the press corps, did not respond to questions at the airport as he climbed into his limousine under close guard and was whisked away to his downtown Royal Palace without incident.

But in his statement, Sihanouk said that because of the opposition of some Cambodian factions to his desire for national reconciliation, he would step down as head of state after the U.N.-organized elections.

"I will irrevocably quit my functions as head of state and president of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on May 28," the day after U.N. elections finish, he said. He cited the opposition to national reconciliation, as well as

lack of "respect for the cease-fire, complete respect for human rights including those of Vietnamese living peacefully in Cambodia (and) the destruction of natural resources."

The prince was greeted on his arrival from Beijing by Cambodian faction leaders, including Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan. Samphan recently sent a letter to the prince advising him to cancel his trip because an unnamed "enemy is in a position to dispatch special commando units to liquidate" him. As a result, the streets of Phnom Penh were heavily guarded by government military and civilian police as the prince returned to host U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on April 7 and 8.

Sihanouk is scheduled to meet on Saturday with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata, who arrived here Thursday for a three-day visit.

Before that, the prince is scheduled to meet Friday night with U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Chief Yasushi Akashi.

The two are expected to discuss the security situation in Cambodia in light of the almost daily attacks against U.N. personnel, massacres of Vietnamese and Cambodian civilians by the Khmer Rouge, and increasing cease-fire violations.

A meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups the four warring factions under U.N. supervision and is headed by the prince, is scheduled for Sunday. Sihanouk plans to leave again on April 14 to attend the birthday celebrations of North Korean leader Kim Il-song in Pyongyang, palace officials said. Prince Sihanouk has a residence in Beijing, where he has been spending more and more of his time since the Cambodian peace plan began falling apart. The prince said he would leave a decision about whether Cambodia should accept a 63 million dollar loan from the World Bank up to Akashi.

Plans for the loan were scrapped after the Cambodian opposition factions—led by the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party loyal to the prince—failed to agree to the terms of the loan because they feared unfair benefit for the Phnom Penh government. UNTAC's financial chief Roger Lawrence flew to Beijing last week to try to talk Prince Sihanouk into changing his mind.

Khmer Rouge Blamed for Attack on Video Arcade

BK0204102093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 2 (AFP)—Survivors of an attack on a video hall in central Cambodia said the Khmer Rouge were responsible, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Friday.

"Our investigation tends to give credence to this claim," said UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt, who raised the death toll from Wednesday night's incident to 29, with 31 injured. He said investigators determined that the attackers were experienced fighters who carried the body of one of their dead colleagues six kilometers (four miles) away so there would be no evidence of their identity. "The group did not show any mercy either, as they even shot people who were pleading for their lives," Falt said.

Meanwhile in northwest Siem Reap Province Thursday night, U.N. peacekeepers came under attack again in the third such incident reported this week. No one was injured, the spokesman said.

"Of course we are deeply concerned about this string of attacks against U.N. personnel," Falt said, noting the U.N. Security Council had recently passed a resolution calling for all parties to guarantee the safety of U.N. personnel.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council who was returning to Cambodia from Beijing Friday, was to meet UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi to discuss the security situation, Falt said.

In the latest incident, U.N. civilian police from Jordan and Nepal came under automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire, forcing them to run for cover at the Bangladeshi company's bunkers nearby, Falt said. The roof of the Jordanians' house was hit by rocket fire, while the Nepalis' house was shot up, he said. The U.N. civilian police office was also damaged, along with a vehicle, Falt said.

Government Soldiers Reportedly Join Khmer Rouge

BK0204011693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Apr 93

["Special report from Battambang battlefield"]

[Text] According to a report from Battambang battlefield, on the morning of 1 April, two regiments of Phnom Penh forces deserted Yuon [Vietnamese] and their puppets and fled to join National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] on Battambang-Pailin battlefield. The two regiments of Phnom Penh forces which defected to NADK are the 1st and 14th Regiments of 196th Division stationing at Komping Puoy. NADK warmly and cordially welcomed fraternal Cambodian soldiers of the two regiments and gave them food and provided each of them with one bushel of rice and 500 Thai baht. These soldiers, in tears and with great anger, said that while serving Yuon and puppet ringleaders—Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Pol Saroeun, Hol Savoeun, and others—for the past several years, their parents, brothers, sisters, wives, children, and relatives died one by one because of Yuon and their puppets and they themselves suffered from shortages of everything.

The Yuon and puppet ringleaders had lately ordered them to fight again despite shortages of rice, medicine, and everything. They were given only one bowl of rice gruel a day. Sometimes, they had nothing to eat. This is why after hearing the statements of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, successive statements of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, and reports on the Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia, they had come to realize that the only way for them, their families, and Cambodian people to survive is to attack Yuon and puppet ringleaders and flee to join national forces.

Phnom Penh Troops Kill 3 FUNCINPEC Members

BK0204055093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] On 31 March, 60 soldiers and policemen of Phnom Penh puppets commanded by Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] fired barrages of shots into FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party's office in Sangke District of Battambang Province, killing three FUNCINPEC members and wounding six others. This is one of the many cruel acts committed against FUNCINPEC Party by the Yuon and their puppets.

All circles, including various political parties, and international public are of the opinion that such criminal acts were committed because the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia failed to implement the Paris agreement. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Condemns Khmer Rouge Attacks

BK0204085793 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, 2 Apr (SPK)—The State of Cambodia [SOC] Defense Ministry vehemently condemns the attack launched by "Democratic Kampuchea" (Khmer Rouge) forces against UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces, wounding one and killing one of the UN soldiers, said a ministry spokesman in a statement issued on 31 March.

The statement specifies:

On 24 March at 0250, some 100 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 18 attacked the Aoral Thmei District seat [Kompong Speu Province], and burned local administrative buildings, people's houses, and about 10 tonnes of rice. An inhabitant and a [words indistinct] of UNTAC of Tunisian nationality were wounded in the attack.

Three days later, on 27 March at 2020, approximately 50 Khmer Rouge troops opened fire on a post of Bangladeshi Blue Berets in Angkor Chum District (sector UA 10.55). A Bangladeshi soldier was killed and five Cambodian villagers (?wounded) [words indistinct] Khmer Rouge rebels who destroyed a large number of documents of UNTAC civilian police.

The SOC National Defense Ministry, the statement continues, terms these Khmer Rouge acts [words indistinct] of resolution 810 of the UN Security Council [UNSC], and in particular the immunity of UNTAC personnel whose only mission is to maintain peace in Cambodia in accordance with the Paris peace agreement of which "Democratic Kampuchea" is also a (?signatory).

The SOC Defense Ministry on this occasion shares the great and profound regrets of the Bangladeshi battalion, all UNTAC personnel, the Bangladeshi Government, and in particular the family of the deceased, over the loss of this colleague. The heroism of the Bangladeshi forces on the UN peace mission in Cambodia will forever be in the memory of the Cambodian people [words indistinct]

The SOC Defense Ministry pledges to use all measures [words indistinct] proposed by UNTAC in accordance with the UNSC's resolution 810. It reaffirms its goodwill to cooperate with UNTAC and other parties to implement the peace agreement for peace and stability, and particularly for the coming general elections in Cambodia.

Indonesia

MP Calls for Review of Currency Control System

BK0204055293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The present currency control system should be reviewed because it leads to the uncontrolled outflow of the country's capital for overseas investment, which does not help domestic economic growth. (Abdullah Zaini), deputy chairman of the Functional Group parliamentary faction, said this in response to the increasingly popular trend of Indonesian businessmen investing overseas, especially in the PRC.

The free currency control system should be reviewed because it does not benefit the country and the monetary authority must give its prior approval for any funds going overseas to prevent capital flight.

TEMPO Views Costs of Purchasing German Ships

BK0104061593 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 13 Mar 93 pp 90,91

[From the Economic and Business Column]

[Excerpts] Purchasing goods from abroad is sometimes not as simple as buying locally made goods. When we purchase goods from abroad, we have not only to deal with complex regulations, but we also have to spend more money. The latest example is the purchase of 39 second-hand warships from the former East Germany by the Indonesian Navy. According to the contract signed last year, the funds spent for the purchase stood at only U.S. $12.7 million or 25.4 billion rupiah.

However, the actual expenditures are more than that amount. Several sources close to the financial circle said that the total expenditure needed for the purchase of the ships stands at no less than U.S. $1.1 billion. This means there is an additional expense of U.S. $1.08 billion, or 90 times the price of the 39 warships. What are the additional expenses for? "The price of the ships is like the price of scrap iron, but as the goods are in Germany, that make things more expensive," said Sulaeman Wiriadijaya, chairman of the ship purchasing team.

In addition, there are also expenses for delivering the ships and training the crews in Germany, estimated at about U.S. $309 million or 28 percent of the total budget. Included in this spending is the cost of activating the ships' safety instruments, which will be used during the ships' voyage from Germany to Indonesia.

This does not include the expenses for training the instructors, consisting of Indonesian Navy personnel and workers of the state enterprise in charge of shipbuilding industry. For this purpose, the government dispatched 25 personnel to Germany three months ago. Earlier, the Indonesian Navy had dispatched three teams to Germany to study the ships' condition. "We must pay the Germans for the delivery expenses and crew training," said the source from the financial circle.

In addition to these costs, there are also the administrative expenses for the so-called Presidential Decree no. 3/1992, which includes the tour of duty costs for the teams in charge of buying the ships, administrative fees for 36 months, plus unexpected expenditures. To cover these costs, a budget of U.S. $28.4 million, or about twice the price of the ships, has been allocated. The high amount is attributed to administrative costs of about U.S. $381,000; airfares to Germany for five high-ranking and five middle-ranking officers spanning a period of three years; a per diem allowance of $135,000 for high-ranking officers and $120,000 for middle-ranking ones. [passage omitted]

Other heavy expenses will be spent for the construction of naval bases, estimated to reach $119.8 million. To accomodate so many ships, bigger and better docks are needed and the government has to renovate 12 docks, including those in Mentigi, Belawan, Ujung Pandang, Surabaya, and Jakarta. Besides, the government will also build a new dock in Teluk Ratai, Lampung, and has allocated more than $151 million for this purpose. The Teluk Ratai dock will include berthing facilities, a main naval base, and housing for the personnel, while its construction will be carried out exclusively by the Indonesian Navy.

The Navy also has another task, namely, bringing the ships from Germany to Indonesia, procuring the ships' spare parts and ammunition, as well as maintaining logistics administration. Due to the limited existence of docks in the country, the ships will gradually be brought from Kiel, Germany, to Indonesia within two years' time. "Two ships will be brought here each time," said Navy Chief of Staff Admiral M. Arifin. For this undertaking, the Indonesian Navy has been allocated a $93.8-million budget. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Congress Approves Emergency Powers for Ramos

HK0104141093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1348 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Manila, April 1 (AFP)—The bicameral Philippine congress, after marathon sessions that lasted late Thursday, passed separate versions of a bill vesting President Fidel Ramos with emergency powers to deal with a debilitating energy shortage. The House of Representatives, which is dominated by Ramos's allies, voted overwhelmingly to approve the bill with little changes from a draft submitted by the presidential palace. Senators as expected passed a watered down version of the measure. Sources said members of a conference committee composed of members from both chambers will attempt to reconcile their differences late Thursday in a bid to hammer out a single bill to be sent to Ramos for signing into law.

Essentially, the bill authorizes Ramos to speed the building of new power generators by waiving the rule on public bidding in the awarding of contracts. It also allows him to raise electric rates, use profits from state-run casinos to fund energy projects and skirt environmental requirements and local government clearances in the building of the plants.

Foreign loans to finance the construction of energy projects have been suspended after the supreme court restrained the state-controlled National Power Corp. from raising electric rates. A maze of bureaucracy has mired the construction of new power generators.

The gruelling sessions stretched into Thursday evening as legislators hurried to pass the bill before going on a three-week Easter recess starting Friday. The Philippines's has been reeling from massive power blackouts for almost two years now because of frequent breakdowns of its ageing power plants. The daily outages have been lasting up to 10 hours recently. A prominent businessman said last week the outages have cost the country's fledgeling economy 800 million dollars for the first three months of this year. Economic growth during the same period was zero also because of the power crunch, he added.

Analysts have said government's 4.5 percent growth target this year was not achievable because of the blackouts. The Philippines's gross national product for the past two years have been flat.

The bill's approval capped days of bitter debates between the measure's proponents and liberal legislators, who voiced fears Ramos was laying the groundwork for one-man rule. Ramos, a former general who enforced Ferdinand Marcos's martial law decrees, has allayed

such fears and cited his role in ousting the late dictator in 1986 and the crushing of several right-wing coup attempts under his predecessor, Corazon Aquino.

Manila Radio Notes Approval

HK0204021093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Senate and the House of Representatives have approved the 'special powers' bill which grants additional powers to President Fidel V. Ramos in the government's attempt to solve the energy crisis. The Senate approved only three special powers to be implemented within one year which are: Granting the government permission to enter into negotiated power project contracts, allotment of ten percent of the Philippine Amusement and Games Corporation' gross profits to the National Power Corporation [Napocor], and allowing the increase of Napocor's return-on-rate base which is currently limited to twelve percent.

The Congress stressed that details of negotiated contracts must immediately be made known to the public. [passage omitted]

German Minister Meets Romulo, Departs for SRV

LD0204113693 Hamburg DPA in German 1027 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Manila/Hanoi (DPA)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel flew today from the Philippines to Vietnam on the last stage of his political tour of five Asian-Pacific countries. Kinkel met Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo at Manila International Airport to discuss closer economic cooperation. Germany is the fifth largest trading partner of the Philippines.

Philippine Foreign Ministry sources said today that the Philippine Government is concerned not only over the political crisis in Russia but also over renewed tension on the Korean peninsula, as well as increasing violence in Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Kinkel is the first German foreign minister to visit communist Hanoi. The expectation in Hanoi before Kinkel's planned talks with the Vietnamese leadership tomorrow is that Bonn will follow French President Francois Mitterrand in calling on the United States to lift its economic embargo on Vietnam.

The embargo means that Vietnam is still unable to receive credit from the World Bank or the IMF. However, Germany is once again granting Vietnam official development aid in common with France and Japan. Bonn supports the economic reform process launched by Vietnam's communists in the late 1980's with the objective of securing a free market economy. However, the German Government would like to see the policy accompanied by political reforms.

One thorn in German-Vietnamese relations is constituted by the Vietnamese guest workers and students who have remained in Germany following the collapse of the GDR. Bonn is in favor of their return to Vietnam and is offering them financial assistance in reestablishing themselves.

Welcome for U.S. Charge 'Not So Enthusiastic'

HK0204050093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Carlito Pablo]

[Text] United States Embassy interim charge d'affaires Donald Westmore yesterday was given a not so enthusiastic welcome by Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo whom he met officially for the first time. "I told him that I'm delighted to see you but I will be more delighted to meet a new ambassador," Romulo candidly told reporters in an interview following a one-hour courtesy call by Westmore.

Westmore, former deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, will serve as officer-in-charge of the embassy up to June this year or until a new envoy is appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Congress. Romulo said Manila does not expect any major initiatives to be undertaken by Westmore during the transition period. "Just the normal relations I guess," he said.

Both officials professed that the call was mainly courtesies and nothing significant was taken up. "The living conditions and amenities," Romulo said, while Westmore commented: "We had a nice chat. It's not a formal meeting."

State Secretary Warren Christopher earlier assured Romulo that Westmore would be a worthy representative of Washington until a regular ambassador takes charge in Manila. Christopher told Romulo in a letter that Westmore is a "trusted aide" who is equally capable in managing the U.S. mission in the country.

Foreign affairs officials have been saying the U.S. now treats the Philippines with "benign neglect" due to the closure of its military bases here. So far, David Steinberg, president of the Long Island University in New York, and William Clark, former assistant state secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, are being bruited as candidates for ambassador to Manila.

Congress Passes Energy Crisis Act

HK0204152593 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Congress today approved the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993 which gives President Ramos additional powers to resolve the energy problem. It took two hours for the Bicameral Committee to pass the act for approval by the president.

Four of the 12 members of the Senate and the House of Representatives refused to sign the act, a consolidated version of Senate Bill No. 1191 and House Bill No. 8546. They are Representatives Edcel Lagman and Joker Arroyo and Senators John Osmena and Wigberto Tanada.

The act exempts public biddings for power projects from government auditing rules, and allows the president to reorganize the National Power Corporation.

It also allows the president to enter into contracts for the construction, repair, rehabilitation and maintenance of power plant projects and others. It also allows the chief executive to abolish or create any agency.

The act authorizes the president to allocate 10 per cent of the gross earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation for the next five years to power projects, and to prevent any irregularity the act provides for the setting up of an oversight committee in Congress to monitor the implementation and monitoring of the president's exercise of these powers.

Poll Body Proclaims Winners in ARMM

HK0204025993 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Liningding Pangandaman is now the official governor for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM]. The Commission on Elections [Comelec] proclaimed Pangandaman this afternoon as the head of the ARMM. Nabil Tan was proclaimed as the vice governor. The two top ARMM officials are National Union of Christian Democrats candidates. Over 600,000 people voted for Pangandaman while over 200,000 votes went for Zacaria Candao. Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod praised the candidates who ran in the ARMM election for respecting the poll result.

Ramos Swears in New Leaders

HK0204085693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 2 April 93

[Text] Manila, April 2 (AFP)—President Fidel Ramos swore into office Friday the new executives of a Moslem autonomous government in the southern Philippines and urged them to rid the region of political violence and corruption. Former diplomat Liningding Pangandaman, a Ramos ally, won a landslide victory in the gubernatorial contest for the Autonomous Region of Moslem Mindanao (ARMM) elections on March 25.

His ticket also won the post for vice governor and a majority of the 21-member regional assembly. "My administration is determined to develop the full potential of Mindanao, perhaps the island group with the country's richest potential," Ramos said in a speech, adding that he wanted the benefits to go to both Christians and Muslims.

The Region, comprising four provinces in southwestern Mindanao with a mainly Moslem population of 2.1 million, was created by plebiscite in 1989 to comply with one of the provisions of an Arab-backed pact that halted a bloody secessionist uprising mounted by Moslem guerrillas in the 1970s. The Autonomous Region gets a percentage of all tax collections in the area and executes nearly all government functions except defense and foreign policy, which is retained by Manila. But Moslem guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front and a second faction, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, have so far refused to lay down their weapons and boycotted this year's poll, claiming it did not meet the provisions of the 1976 ceasefire accord. Ramos said the past Autonomous Region's administration, which was trounced in last month's polls, had "glaring shortcomings." Political warlords, well-armed groups and bandits "continue to paint a grim picture of ARMM's inability to address the problem of law enforcement," he added.

He urged the incoming ARMM government and regional assembly to "create a regional police force" to help the national government rid the area of unlicensed firearms. Ramos also charged the 1991 appropriation may have been fraudulently spent.

Favors Changes to ARMM Organic Act

HK0204095093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos is in favor of amending the current Organic Act, the cornerstone of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM], if the changes will accelerate the development of the region.

In a statement during the induction of the new ARMM officials, led by Governor Luningding Pangandaman, the president said he is in favor of amending the ARMM Organic Act should it be the desire of the ARMM's leaders and people.

[Begin Ramos recording in English, in progress] ...for ARMM progress. That so much time has been lost and we cannot afford to lose any day longer. [sentence as heard] [Word indistinct] claim that the main reason behind the ARMM's shortcomings is the Organic Act itself: that it does not provide sufficient fiscal autonomy, that the ARMM has its hands tied because Manila continues to intervene unnecessarily, and that a review leading to amendments to the Organic Act is urgently needed. The nature of the regional government provided for under the Organic Act does not call for its complete severance of ties from the central government. At this stage, more devolution of power and functions have to be made and these are [word indistinct]. Let the oversight committee and the new ARMM administration collaborate more closely together for a more comprehensive, but synergistic, devolution of authority and responsibilities. If there is a provision in the Organic Act which the ARMM leaders and people truly want amended, let me say here and now that I am amenable to those changes. [end recording]

Dutch Justice Secretary Denies Asylum for Sison

HK0204053093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The stay in the Netherlands of the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], Jose Maria [Joma] Sison, will soon be over.

Netherlands Justice Secretary Aad Kosto said he has refused Joma Sison's asylum request. Kosto explained that Sison could not appeal for protection under the Treaty for Refugees of Geneva because the CPP-New People's Army was already legalized in the Philippines when Republic Act 1700, known as the anti-subversion act, was repealed. Kosto noted that Sison may be made to answer for some crimes for his continuous association with terrorist groups. This allegedly has been established through an investigation carried out by the Netherlands Interior Intelligence Service. Kosto added that Sison should have no concern on his return to the Philippines because there is no threat against his life.

Meanwhile, Satur Ocampo, former National Democratic Front spokesperson, has expressed concern over the development in the Netherlands. He said that the rejection of Sison's asylum request may just complicate the peace process in the country. Ocampo believes that because of the charges filed by the government against Sison, he may be arrested immediately upon his return to the Philippines.

[Begin Ocampo recording in English] There is great reservation on the part of Mr. Sison and Luis Jalandoni that if they come to the Philippines or if personalities from the underground, as we did in 1986-87, would come up again, they might be risking their lives, and liberty might be prejudiced if the peace talks will not succeed. [end recording]

Thailand

Democrat Minister: SAP Will Not Leave Coalition

BK0104140193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Niphon Phromphan reports on his conversation with Montri Phongphanit, leader of the Social Action Party [SAP], during a phone call last night. He says Montri confirmed to him that the SAP has no plans to withdraw from the government but will always remain a partner in the coalition. Niphon Phromphan, who is deputy secretary general of the Democrat Party, reports his conversation with SAP Leader Montri Phongphanit:

[Begin Niphon recording] I made a phone call last night and talked with SAP leader Montri Phongphanit. First, I asked him about his health, and I learned that he was not well. Then I asked him to explain what has been happening. The SAP leader assured me that he had never considered withdrawing from the government coalition. He told me to report his confirmation to Major General Sanan Khachonprasat, the Democrat Party's secretary general. He explained that the undated resignation letters tendered by his party members who are Cabinet ministers, as he understood it, were probably motivated by their intention to give me full authority to make any decison concerning the direction of the SAP. Their action taken had nothing to do with a plan to withdraw from the coalition government. We have dwelled on this point for a long time. I then told him that I would report what I heard to the Democrat Party's secretary general. And I already did report to Major General Sanan Khachonprasat last night. [end recording]

Editorial Urges Forcing SAP Out of Coalition

BK0204044193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Act before conflicts reach breaking point"]

[Text] From the very beginning, the Social Action Party has been the "odd man out" among the five coalition parties which make up the government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. A crow among the swans because of its tarnished image for being an integral part of the unpopular short-lived administration of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the Social Action Party (SAP) was the last choice and was incorporated into the coalition alliance merely to give the Government a comfortable majority in Parliament.

In contrast with Cabinet members from the New Aspiration [NAP] and Phalang Tham [PDP] parties who, in the past six months, have been engaged in back-stabbing and sniping, the five SAP ministers have been relatively peaceful and have always obeyed any resolutions adopted by the Cabinet. Compared to the PDP or the NAP, it is the least problem-plagued party for the Democrats. The only 'thorn in the side' for the Government appears to come from Piyanat Watcharaporn, the only maverick SAP MP, who does not bother to hide his grudges—if he has any—against the Government.

SAP leader Montri Phongphanit's emotional outburst against the Democrats, particularly against the Prime Minister, is not unexpected as his relationship with the Democrats has been anything but cordial and friendly. Nonetheless, his unceremonial issuance of a threat to pull the SAP out of the coalition alliance has definitely put the Government in a very shaky position and made a Cabinet reshuffle only a matter of time.

Mr Montri's outburst might have stemmed from his personal feeling that he has been treated like an outcast all along by the Democrats because of the stigma associated with being declared "unusually rich" by the now defunct National Peace-keeping Council and having his assets seized as a result. But there seems to be little to argue about in his claim that the Government has achieved almost nothing in

the past six months although, as a part of the coalition set-up, he cannot simply shrug off the blame. Many among us who had high expectations from the Government from the start may share Mr Montri's disappointment with the Administration's poor performance.

According to Mr Montri, his five ministers have submitted their undated resignation letters to him. It all now depends on him whether to stay on or to withdraw from the coalition. But judging from his tone and also from his absence from a get-together of coalition leaders on Wednesday, the SAP's relationship with the alliance has apparently arrived at the brink where there is no point in keeping the party any longer. The SAP too should call it quits if it does not feel happy or comfortable in staying on.

Parties in the same government must speak in the same voice, at least in public, even though they may disagree with one another privately. It is an unwritten political fact of life that parties must adhere to because, without it, a Government can never function properly. What we have witnessed over the past few months have been key coalition parties seemingly all speaking in different tongues and following their own political pursuits.

Key government figures, especially in the Democrat camp, may feel unperturbed by Mr Montri's rebellion and, again, may try to solve the problem in their usual indecisive manner by simply "sweeping the problem under the rug" and allowing political confusion to persist.

It is time that Prime Minister Chuan demonstrates his powers of leadership and puts an end to the acrimonious bickering, not only between SAP and his own party, but also between the Democrats and other coalition parties, to restore government unity and public confidence—especially that of investors—even though the decision means excluding the SAP from the coalition.

Former NPKC Leader Urges Acceptance of Assets Ruling

BK0204040193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] A former National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] leader yesterday urged all concerned to accept a Supreme Court ruling against the NPKC's order for the seizure of the assets of politicians it accused of being "unusually rich."

Armed Forces Inspector-General ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin claimed the council's order No. 26 was issued in haste after he and other NPKC leaders staged a coup against the Chatchai Chunhawan administration, and therefore contained some legal flaws.

The Assets Examination Committee was later formed to investigate Gen Chatchai and nine other politicians in his government, "but we did not know any details of the investigation," claimed ACM Kaset, who was vice chairman of the NPKC. He claimed the NPKC leaders realised that the committee's investigation of the 10 politicians was unfair and decided to amend the order to allow them to appeal to the court.

Since the ruling against the order had been made by a panel of the Supreme Court judges, it had to be accepted, ACM Kaset said.

ACM Kaset yesterday turned up at a party hosted by Chat Thai deputy leader Sano Thianthong in Prachin Buri to celebrate his 59th birthday anniversary and the occasion of his being freed from the assets seizure order. Mr Sano, one of the 10 politicians affected by the NPKC's Order No. 26, is widely known for his close ties with ACM Kaset. There has been speculation that ACM Kaset is contemplating joining the Chat Thai.

ACM Kaset said yesterday that the controversy surrounding the assets seizure should be over now that the court had delivered its ruling adding that the 10 politicians were only suspected of being corrupt and had never been defendants in court.

Meanwhile, another former NPKC member, who declined to be named, said yesterday that leading members of the NPKC including former prime minister Suchind Khraprayun had expected the Supreme Court would revoke the Assets Examination Committee's order confiscating the politicians' assets.

The ex-NPKC member said he was not surprised at the ruling. "It's been expected," he said. The general, whose forces were deployed during the February 23, 1991 coup which overthrew the elected government of Gen Chatchai described it as "pure rumour" when asked about the possibility that disgruntled military officers loyal to former NPKC leaders might use the Supreme Court ruling as a pretext for another coup.

"There is no such thing. If we had intended to do it, we would have made our plans in advance since we had expected for quite some time what the ruling would be," said the general.

The officer said he was confident the Army under the leadership of Gen Wimon Wongwanit would adhere to democratic rule and would not resort to violent means to settle a political dispute.

"It is unlikely the Army will stage a coup as long as he (Gen Wimon) remains the Army commander-in-chief," he said. The general said the success of any military coup depended totally on the Army chief's support.

"As military men we obey his orders, and without his support a coup has no chance of success," he said.

The officer said Gen Wimon had on several occasions urged his men to "serve the Government as we are part of its machinery, and we should do anything in our capability to assist the Government in resolving national problems."

"There is no doubt about his support for this Government," the general said.

U.S. Envoy Discusses IPR With Deputy Premier

BK0204030393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p A5

[By Chintana Panya-awut]

[Text] US Ambassador David Lambertson yesterday called on Deputy Prime Minister [PM] Suphachai Phanitchphak to express Washington's continued concern at the lack of action by the Thai government against traders of pirated cassette tapes, video tapes, computer software and patented medicines.

Suphachai said after the meeting that he told Lambertson the government had recently begun an extensive opetation against people violating international copyright law.

"We will continue to crack down on fake tapes," he said.

Laws will be amended to ensure the conviction of copyright pirates and consideration will be given to increasing penalties for copyright violation, he said.

Pirated tapes are reported to account for about 90 per cent of the tape market in Thailand.

The US has threatened to withdraw benefits granted. Thai exports under its Generalized System of Preferences unless the government takes serious action to protect copyrights.

Suphachai said he did not think this will happen. The Chuan administration has done more than any previous government to protect intellectual property rights [IPR].

"The US should look at what we have done during the past six months and what we are planning to do from now," he said.

Suphachai said that the United States is also concerned about alleged violations of pharmaceutical patents by Thai companies.

However, the government will await the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) before considering amendments to Thai law.

Suphachai said the United States also wants Thailand to clearly specify a policy on protecting computer software copyrights. But on that issue as well, Suphachai said Thailand prefers to wait for the outcome of the Gatt talks before taking any action.

Thai law allows companies to pursue cases involving alleged infringement of software copyrights in Thai courts. However, US manufacturers complain that this presents numerous difficulties.

Government Urged To Sign Tape Pirating Memo

BK0204050793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] The United States has urged Thailand to sign a memorandum of understanding on tackling counterfeit tape-cassette and video in the Thai market to put away an allegation by the US government that Thailand has not efficiently enforced a law against copyright violators, an informed source in Government House said yesterday.

The source said the US stance has been acknowledged by the Thai delegation headed by the Commerce Ministry permanent secretary Patchara Itsarasena who is currently negotiating with senior officials of the US Trade Representative in Washington DC. The latest negotiation results have been fed directly to Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchapak.

The source said the US government wants a commitment from Thailand that the Thai side would seriously suppress copyright violators of musical tape-cassettes and videos to be reduced from 90 percent of the Thai market to a level of 30 percent in the next few months. If Thailand signs a memo with the US, the American government would have genuine confidence that Thailand would keep a stable and steady pace in the suppression of copyright violators here. However, the figure of the reduction rate that the US proposed is not fixed, and can be talked about at the negotiation table when Thailand expresses a willingness to establish the memo.

The source said the memo would be like the paper Thailand had signed with the European Community on reduction of counterfeit cassette tapes and videos. It did not set a deadline. The memo between Thailand and the US would say only that Thailand would do its work on suppression.

Thailand has been listed on the US Priority Foreign Country Watchlist under Section 301 of the Trade Act because copyright violation in Thailand has caused the American makers of music cassette tapes and videos to lose US$125 million per year. A list of countries considered unfair US trade partners is to be declared by the end of this month. The source said the US is gathering 20 categories of Thai export products that would face 100 percent tax or a countervailing duty.

US Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson and US Trade Representative officials yesterday had a meeting with Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchapak, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon and Director General of the Intellectual Property Department on the copyright and patent issue.

Dr Supachai said after the meeting that he had informed the US ambassador that the Thai government in the last two weeks had seriously suppressed copyright violators and would continue to do so.

The Thai government has also amended the law on copyright violation which now carries a severe penalty.

Thailand has adjusted its copyright law to provide a shorter court procedure period. Under the former law, it took a long time to investigate if claimants in copyright violation cases were citizens of signatory countries to the Berne Convention.

He said the Thai government has a moral responsibility to suppress copyright violators and it is also government policy. He has supported an idea to set up a joint committee to consider this issue as well as to propose a reduction target for counterfeit cassette tapes and videos that would be accepted by both countries.

On the pharmaceutical patent issue, he said the US was concerned that Thailand would not set a scope on a disclosure of details in drug-formulas that would easily enable patent violators to copy drugs. He said the scope could be as clearly defined as the US wants if the two countries hold talks.

Like in other countries, the US wants patent protection for new drugs and it wants the Thai government to retroactively protect the drugs. He had informed the US side that Thailand would wait for a GATT resolution. If GATT accepts that point, Thailand would agree to it. He said in 2-3 weeks, Thailand would submit to the US a list of what the Thai government has done in suppressing copyright and patent violations.

He said he had informed the US side that Thailand was concerned that ht eUS would cuts its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) privileges without warning, which would hamper trade between the two countries. He said the US trade representative at the meeting here told him that it was only a rumour, and there were no substantial grounds to cut the GSP.

Government Conveys 'Concern' at Cambodia Killings

BK0204013593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Thailand conveyed its concern about the recent spate of killings in Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge on Wednesday night, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday. Thailand's concern was expressed to Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Sarot Chawanawirat. However, Mr Sakthip stressed that Mr Sarot called Mr Samphan for "consultations", and not to accuse the Khmer Rouge of having committed the killings.

Officials of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) have accused the Khmer Rouge of the massacre of ethnic Vietnamese, which have mostly taken place in the Northwest of Cambodia. Thailand does not have the evidence to make such an accusation, a senior official said. According to Mr Sarot, Mr Khieu Samphan categorically denied that the Khmer Rouge were behind the attacks.

"I pointed out that whoever may have committed these killings have only brought harm to Cambodia," Mr Sarot said. Mr Sarot also emphasised that the outbreak of violence during the pre-election period would serve to further deteriorate the situation where tension was already running high.

The Khmer Rouge leader reportedly maintained that problems would remain so long as there is any failure to respect the Paris peace accords. Thailand reportedly has reminded the Khmer Rouge that the ethnic issue is explosive, and one that concerned parties have agreed should be solved after the elections.

Mr Khieu Samphan "acknowledged" Thailand's expression of concern over the killings, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip said.

Cambodian Refugees' Repatriation Continues

BK0204033793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p A5

[Text] The 16,000 Cambodian refugees remaining in the eastern border province of Prachin Buri are expected to be repatriated by the end of this month even though some are protesting the move, a Supreme Command Headquarters official said yesterday.

The refugees are being held at the Site 2 camp in Ta Phraya district.

Deputy Supreme Commander Adm [Admiral] Prida Kalasut said the returnees would be eligible to vote in the Cambodian general elections to be held from May 23-27.

Princess To Visit Cambodia 5-6 April

BK0104062693 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Her Royal Highness Princess Chulaphon will pay an official visit to Cambodia during April 5th and 6th 1993. During this trip the princess will be received in audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Princess Monique in Tevea Vinichai Hall in the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on Monday, April 5th. An official dinner will be hosted in the princess's honor by the Prince and Princess Sihanouk at Khemarin Palace on the same day.

Her Royal Highness Princess Chulaphon will depart from Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters at Terminal Don Muang on Monday, April 5th by a special aircraft provided by the Royal Thai Air Force, scheduled to leave 9 AM and will return by the same aircraft, scheduled to arrive at the Royal Thai Force Headquarters Air Terminal at Don Muang on Tuesday, 6th April at 1120 local.

Government Delays Signing Pact With Laos

BK0204041393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p B2

[By Phichaya Changson]

[Text] Thailand has delayed the signing of a memorandum of understanding to invest in a Laos hydroelectric development project since the two country's governments cannot agree on investment conditions.

The memorandum includes demands that the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) invests in Laos and contracts itself for 1,500 megawatts of electricity instead of following earlier plans to increase domestic production power output.

According to a source in the Industry Ministry, a seven-man delegation from Laos led by its PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Phao Bounnaphon is expected in Thailand soon to discuss bilateral cooperation on hydroelectricity development in Laos.

Laos had earlier expected to sign the memorandum during Thailand's PM's Office Minister Sawit Phothiwihok's visit to that country.

However, according to a well-informed source, it was not signed as [as received] after studying the contract. Thailand disagreed with certain details.

The demand for EGAT to invest in Laos is deemed inappropriate by Thai authorities since the agency, being government-owned, officially represents Thailand and could be blamed if the scheme damages Laos' natural resources.

Thailand is far more willing to support any private sector investments in Laos, said the source.

Although the kingdom has no objections to buying electricity from Laos, Thailand sees the clause stating that the Thai government changes its plans to increase EGAT electricity power by buying from Laos as too restrictive.

Laos will rewrite the memorandum and the new contract is expected to take place soon, with either Sawit or Prime Minister Chuan Likphai travelling to Laos to do the honours, said the same source.

Phao yesterday visited EGAT governor Sombun Maninawa and the two agreed to cooperate in developing hydroelectricity in Laos, with Thailand as its major client.

Laos plans to attain 1,500 megawatts electricity production in the year 2000.

Both parties also agreed to cooperate in a coal exploration and development project in Laos and to continue the electncity linkage along the Thai-Laos border to meet the area's constant demand.

A source said that Thailand, although interested in buying Lao electricity, will only purchase under two conditions: the price is right and it is still able to attract investors.

According to the same source, any future agreements signed by Thailand and Laos concerning electricity purchase will be "firm agreements," with penalty clauses included to cover the event that Laos cannot satisfy the demand.

Any such agreements should ensure that Thailand receives constant supplies.

Currently, the two have signed two "non-firm" agreements in which the figures are inconsistent, depending on the level of water in Lao dams. The most electricity Laos has sold to Thailand in the past was 80-100 megawatts.

Earlier Sawit had said that by contracting Thailand as its firm buyer, Laos would be able to use the memorandum of understanding to find loan sources for the project's development.

Government Gives Rural Development 'Top Priority'

BK0104035993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 93 p A3

[Text] The government is giving top priority to rural development by appropriating Bt [baht] 53.7 billion this year. Deputy Interior Minister Chamni Sakdiset said yesterday.

"This is because Thai rural society is in a crisis with higher rates of family collapse and the number of nationwide prostitutes rising to 700,000, said Chamni, a Phalang Tham Party MP.

Of the total fund of Bt53.7 billion, Bt45 billion will go to six major ministries; Bt6 billion for provincial development projects; Bt2 billion for tambon (precinct) development projects; and Bt700 million for an urgent upcountry development fund.

Of the Bt45 billion allocated to the six major ministries, Chamni said the Interior Ministry will receive Bt44 billion for its 11 organizations—the Local Administration Department, the Civil Works Department, the Community Development Department, the Office of Accelerated Rural Development, the Public Welfare Department, the Lands Department, the Police Department, the Labour and Skill Development Department, the Labour Protection and Welfare Department, the Town and Country Planning Department and the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Interior.

He said all the organizations will take responsibility for a total of 9,125 projects this year. About 6,000 roads will be built across the country, he added.

He said the Bt6 billion provincial development fund will be used to provide water and to conserve natural resources and the environment upcountry.

Of this fund, Ubon Ratchathani will get the largest amount, Bt218 million, while Ranong will get the lowest, Bt18 million.

In reference to the tambon development fund of Bt2 billion, Chamni said each tambon will receive between Bt200,000 and Bt300,000.

He said the Bt700 million urgent development fund for upcountry will be spent on developing cottage industries.

Vietnam

Reportage on Visiting Lao Party-State Delegation

Radio Welcomes Visit

BK0104142593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Welcome the High-Level Lao Party and State Delegation Official Friendship Visit to Vietnam"]

[Text] We welcome the visit of the high-level party and state delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon at a time when the causes of national defense and construction in Vietnam and Laos are scoring encouraging achievements. Prompted by a steel-like determination to carry on its dynamic, effective renovation work, Vietnam is undergoing drastic changes. Likewise, on the other side of the Truong Son Range, under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] headed by the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan in the past and by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon at present, the Lao people of different ethnic groups have scored great results.

One can cite achievements in 1992 as evidence. The gross national product increased by 7 percent compared with 1991. Specifically, agro-forestry production increased by more than 8 percent, industrial production by more than seven percent, and the service industry by nearly 4 percent. Meanwhile, the inflation rate did not exceed 10 percent.

With an investment capital accounting for more than 40 percent of the state budget, economic infrastructures have been expanded even down to remote areas in the countryside, thus creating conditions for boosting production and goods circulation. Laos is rich in natural resources and initial steps have already been taken to explore them for exploitation in a not-too-distant future. Large hydroelectric projects, oil and gas, nonferrous metal, and mineral ore of different types top the list of important national resources.

By continuing to promote cooperation with all countries in the world, Laos has made vigorous efforts to attract foreign investment. As a result, in 1992, it signed 104 contracts valued at $176 million. This important achievement again testifies to the correctness of the renovation line set forth by the fifth LPRP Congress. This line bears three salient points as follows:

First, it is necessary to continue to effect changes for the better in all domains, strengthen unity among organizations of the political system, consolidate the commodity economy, shift to the market-oriented mechanism under state management, and strengthen economic cooperation with foreign countries.

Second, it is important to strengthen the all-people national security and defense system, to heighten vigilance against the peaceful evolution scheme, to effectively defend the regime, and to actively pursue a foreign policy aimed at promoting peace, cooperation, and development.

Third, it is necessary to attach importance to party-building work and to train cadres to make them steadfast politically, ideologically, and organizationally from the central down to grass-roots levels.

Being encouraged by past achievements, the Lao people are striving to implement the 1993-2000 national construction plan with a strong determination to further strengthen the all-people national solidarity bloc, to bring into play the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-reliance, to mobilize the capabilities of the people and all economic sectors to develop the national economy according to the market-oriented mechanism under state management. At the same time, efforts are being made to broaden cooperation with foreign countries in order to exploit Laos's strengths comprising chiefly of agriculture, forestry, and hydroelectricity, thus creating conditions for vigorously promoting production, turning a primary economy into a commodity economy, constantly improving the material and spiritual life of the Lao people of different ethnic groups, leading the country out of backwardness, firmly defending the fatherland, and carrying on the task of building and developing the people's democratic regime under the party's leadership.

The Lao Government-initiated socioeconomic development program till the year 2000 aims to achieve the following targets: It is necessary to increase the gross national product by 8 percent per year; stabilize the economic, financial, and pricing systems as well as the currency exchange rates; keep the inflation rate at 10 percent or less per year; and reserve no less than 15 percent of the gross national product to meet investment requirements.

In the past, Vietnam and Laos stayed close together for a long time in the common struggle to defend each country's independence and freedom. Now, the two countries are continuing to follow a glorious path, highly determined to develop each country's cause of national construction a step further. The two countries are closely linked together by friendship, respect each other's interests, and contribute to peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

The exchanges of visits by high-level Vietnamese and Lao party, state, and mass organization delegations have further consolidated the already close friendship, cooperation, and solidarity between the two countries. Therefore, we warmly welcome the official friendship visit to our country by a high-level LPDR party and state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, regarding this event as a new historic landmark in the relations between the two countries.

Party, State Leaders Welcome Visitors

BK0104135193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Dear friends: A high-level delegation of the party and state of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and LPDR prime minister, arrived in Hanoi today for an official friendship visit to our country from 1 to 4 April at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV].

Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the Political Bureau and deputy prime minister, welcomed Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and other Lao guests at the Noi Bai International Airport. The official welcoming ceremony was solemnly held at the Presidential Palace. [passage omitted]

As the motorcade escorting Comrade Khamtai Siphandon arrived at the Presidential Palace Comrade Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrade Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, prompted by a profound sense of brotherhood, promptly walked to the door of the car to greet the comrade LPRP chairman and LPDR prime minister. A group of young Hanoi ladies wearing beautiful traditional Vietnamese ao dai presented fresh bouquets to Comrade Khamtai Siphandon as an indication of the Vietnamese people's hospitality toward the distinguished Lao guests.

In a cordial atmosphere, General Secretary Do Muoi invited Comrade Khamtai Siphandon to step on to the honorary stand while the military band played the national anthems of Laos and Vietnam. [passage omitted]

Following the color-saluting ceremony, the commander of a Vietnam People's Army [VPA] guard of honor came forward to greet Comrade Khamtai Siphandon. Next, General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrade Khamtai Siphandon reviewed the guard of honor. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon shook hands with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet; Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the Political Bureau and deputy prime minister; Comrade General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense; Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Municipality Party Committee; Comrade Hong Ha, secretary of the Party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs; and many ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking party and state cadres, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of international organizations in Hanoi. [passage omitted]

Following the official welcoming ceremony, General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet cordially invited Comrade Khamtai Siphandon to go into the Presidential Palace where he will stay during his present official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Do Muoi Talks With Khamtai Siphandon

BK0104135393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] This afternoon at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the SRV Government, held talks with the Lao high-ranking party and state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR, which is currently paying an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Attending the meeting on the Vietnamese side were Phan Van Khai, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy prime minister; Doan Khue, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense; Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Bui Danh Luu, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of communications and transportation; Ngo Xuan Lo, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of construction; Le Xuan Trinh, member of the Party Central Committee and head of the Government Office; Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister and chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; Ho Te, minister of finance; Phan Dien, chief of the Party Central Committee Office; Do Van Tai, deputy chief of the Party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department; Tran Khai, deputy chief of the State Planning Commission; and Nguyen Xuan, Vietnamese ambassador to Laos.

On the Lao side were Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy prime minister; Choummali Sai-Gnason, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of National Defense; Vongphet Saikeu-Yachongtoua, member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly; Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Khamsai Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of finance; Bouathong, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of communications, transport, posts and construction; Khamphet Phengmeuang, Lao ambassador to Vietnam; Chiangsouk Bountham, deputy chief of the LPRP Central Committee Office; and Bouasom Boupphavan, deputy chief of the Lao Prime Minister's Office.

On behalf of the CPV Central Committee and the SRV Government, comrades Do Muoi and Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed and highly appraised the official friendship visit to Vietnam by the high-ranking delegation of the Lao party and state led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon. The visit marks a new development in the relations between the two countries and manifests the wish to consistently consolidate the special friendship and unity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and states.

During the talks, the two sides informed each other of the latest developments in their respective countries. Both sides reviewed the implementation of agreements reached by leaders of the two countries during their previous visits and discussed measures and orientations to expand cooperation in other fields in conformity with the international situation and conditions in each country.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on new progress made in the implementation of agreements signed by the two countries during the past one year and more following the October 1991 meeting of the political bureaus of the two parties.

During the Lao delegation's visit this time, the two sides will sign an agreement on immigrants. This denotes new progress in the bilateral relations and will help consolidate the relations of friendship between the two countries.

Both sides also asserted the determination to strengthen, consolidate, and protect the relations of special friendship and unity and the comprehensive cooperation between the two nations for the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asian region.

Both sides welcomed the new progress in the friendly and cooperative relations between countries in Southeast Asia. Both sides also asserted the determination to continue implementing the open door policy to promote relations with all countries for peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

Both sides contended that as a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, Vietnam will strictly honor the agreement and seriously implement its obligations. Both sides expressed the hope that other signatories will do the same, while resolutely opposing all acts of sabotage against the peace process in Cambodia. Both sides expressed prime concern over the recent complicated situation in Cambodia caused by the Khmer Rouge. Both sides called on the United Nations, countries, and parties concerned to take immediate actions to stop the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and protect their life and property

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality, fraternity, and comradeship.

Khamtai Receives Gold Star Order

BK0104160193 Hanoi VNA in English 1545 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—A ceremony was held here today to confer the Gold Star Order, the highest distinction of Vietnam, on Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Central Committee, of Lao People's Revolutionary Party and prime minister, in acknowledgement of his great contributions to the consolidation and development of the special friendship and allround cooperation between Vietnam and Laos.

Present at the ceremony were Do Muoi, general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party President Le Duc Anh Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet General Doan Khue and other high-ranking officials. President Le Duc Anh and Khamtai Siphandon delivered speeches on this occasion.

Do Muoi, Vo Van Kiet Host Banquet

BK0104160393 Hanoi VNA in English 1545 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—Party Secretary General Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet gave a state banquet here this evening in honour of the Lao party and state delegation. Many other senior Vietnamese party and government officials attended. Speeches were delivered by Secretary General Do Muoi and Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon. Toasts were raised to the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, governments and peoples.

Vientiane Radio Reports Visit

BK0204122193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] As reported earlier, yesterday morning a high-level delegation from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR, departed Vientiane by a special plane for an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and the SRV Government.

At 0830, after arriving Hanoi, the official welcoming ceremony for the high-level Lao party-state delegation was held at the Presidential Palace. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, political bureau member of CPV Central Committee and prime minister of the SRV; SRV comrades party and state leaders; members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Vietnam, and a number of residents of Hanoi Capital.

At the welcoming ceremony for Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and his delegation, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his appreciation of the visit by the high-level Lao Party and state delegation—one that reflects the sincere intention of the parties, states, and peoples of the two nations to always foster the long-standing special relations of friendship. Comrade Do Muoi also wished the delegation's visit to Vietnam a glorious success.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon deeply thanked the SRV party and government and the fraternal Vietnamese people for their warm welcome of the Lao delegation. He also thanked the party, government, and people of Vietnam for having always effectively supported and assisted the Lao revolutionary tasks, not only during the past national liberation struggle but also at present time of

national construction and development. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon expressed confidence that the Lao-Vietnamese traditional relations of friendship will continue to improve steadily.

After that, the Lao delegation proceeded to lay a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, and visited the office and residence of President Ho Chi Minh and the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

On the morning of the same day, Comrade Party Central Committee Chairman and Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon paid a courtesy call on Comrade Le Duc Anh, political bureau member of the CPV Central Committee and President of the SRV.

Later on the evening of the same day, the Lao delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and the high-level Vietnamese party-state delegation led by Comrade Do Muoi held talks. They informed each other of the current socioeconomic developments in their respective countries and also discussed the international and regional situation, as well as other issues of mutual interest. They also exchanged views on certain important issues aimed at upgrading the quality of their cooperation to meet the desires and requirements in the restructuring period of each country. Both sides shared the confidence that the assistance and cooperation between the two countries, Laos and Vietnam, will continue to increase incessantly.

U.S. Companies Poised To Compete for Market

BK0204033593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 93 p 32

[Text] COCA-COLA, Pepsi Cola, Jeep, Mobil Oil, Boeing, IBM and a new condom brand from America: these products and firms are poised to legitimately compete for a slice of the Vietnamese market once the United States lifts its embargo on Vietnam. Following former president George Bush's announcement last December that he would slightly ease the US embargo, Americans have become less secretive about their opportunity-scouting exercises in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese state-controlled print media has intensified its efforts to highlight Vietnam's potential and to boost the degree of enthusiasm among foreign nationals regarding that potential. At the same time, they have not missed an opportunity to accentuate the fact that the longer the embargo persists, the more it affects America, not Vietnam.

Bush's announcement allowed American firms to open offices and sign contracts which can only be implemented upon the full lifting of the embargo. The impatience on the part of the Vietnamese is crystal clear.

"Ever have that 'missed the boat' feeling?" read the caption for a photo depicting a cluster of sign-boards advertising Korean and Japanese products at a major intersection in Ho Chi Minh City. The photo accompanied a story about American companies' activities which appeared in a February issue of the semi-official weekly the VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW.

Indeed, that's how many Americans feel. James Rockwell, the managing director of the Vietnam-American Trade and Investment Consulting Corp (VATICO), said he had noticed a remarkable increase in activity by American companies over the past five months. VATICO was the first US consulting company licensed to open an office in Hanoi shortly after Bush's announcement. It is preparing to operate a second office in Ho Chi Minh City in the next two months.

The Vietnamese Government has released a list of 35 American companies engaged in varying degrees of preparations to deal with Vietnam once the embargo is lifted.

The petroleum sector included the names Exxon, Chevron, Atlantic Richfield and Triton. VATICO is looking into the possibility of a joint venture to supply comprehensive oil field services in Vietnam, Mr Rockwell said.

In the automobile sector in which Japan has already secured a strong foothold as a result of the Vietnamese market's faith in Japanese brand names, Chrysler Corp was among other American car-makers interested in the Vietnamese market.

The Bank of America and Citibank are awaiting licences to set up representative offices in Vietnam, while Chase Manhattan, Lehman Brothers a major investment bank, and American Express are reported to be surveying prospects. The Vietnamese Government has also recorded visits by representatives of Boeing, Delta, United Airlines and Northwest. Cola Cola and Pepsi Cola have recently signed documents to start bottling locally once the embargo exists [as published].

Before 1975, the Vietnamese consumed seven litres of soft drink per capita, and in 1993, the figure was only 1.8 litres per capita. "So you see the very good potential there," said Pham Phu Ngoc Trai, the director of the International Beverages Company. Pepsi Cola signed an exclusive bottling agreement with IBC in Ho Chi Minh City on March 16.

Law firm Baker and McKenzie, advertising agency J. Walter Thompson, General Electric, computer-based control system manufacturer Honeywell—the list rolls on and on.

The Americans are starting all over again after what Mr Rockwell called "a complete, total void of 18 years" in a country of which most Americans have some knowledge or feel attached to in one way or another.

"Vietnam for Americans raises not only the economic possibility, but emotional, sentimental interests. People who either fought in or protested the Vietnam War are now in their 40s running corporations... They know where Hanoi, Saigon and Chin Beach are," he said.

Mr Rockwell believed there was a place in the sun for virtually anybody in the market.

"There will be a tourism boom in the next five years as Vietnam is going to be a tourist destination for Americans," he said.

But for the Vietnamese, American investment is deemed secondary to their goal of obtaining credits from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund to prop up their antiquated infrastructure, which has severely inhibited real foreign investment.

"I don't expect big bilateral contributions from the US Government, nor American investments inundating Vietnam, for the US doesn't have the political, economic or strategic interests to do so," said a Vietnamese economist who asked not to be named.

Le Duc Anh Greets Air Defense Corps

BK0104100393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] President Le Duc Anh has sent a letter of greetings to cadres, combatants, and defense workers and personnel of the air defense corps on its 40th founding anniversary, 1 April 1953-1 April 1993. The letter says in part:

The Air Defense Corps is a component of the People's Armed Forces. Under the leadership of the party and thanks to the constant concern and care of President Ho Chi Minh and the affection and assistance of the people throughout the country, the corps lasted through 40 years of development, fighting, and glorious victory.

Combatants of various generations of the Air Defense Corps have surmounted numerous difficulties, hardships, and ordeals and have remained vigilant and combat-ready day and night to fight gallantly. Through their many heroic military exploits, they have made worthy contributions to the cause of national liberation, as well as to the construction and defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and the fulfillment of our noble international duty.

Haiphong Conference Discusses Returned Refugees

BK0104150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1--In 1992 more than 17,000 Vietnamese returned to their homeland from refugee camps in Asian countries and only [number indistinct] people left the country illegally. This was reported at a conference jointly held in Haiphong on March 29 and 30 by the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) to review the reception and reintegration of returnees in 1992. Haiphong is one of the localities with the biggest number of returnees. The conference was attended by representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the administration in 17 provinces and cities from Quang Nam-Da Nang northward, the Japan International Volunteer Center (JIVC), the European Community (EC) and the Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV).

With HCR's financial support totalling nearly 1.8 million US dollars, 72 projects on vocational training, job-generation and income enhancement were executed in 22 provinces and cities. The Vietnamese Government contributed the same amount. So far, more than 670,000 people, including 4,700 returnees, have benefited from the projects. These include fisheries and aquaculture, garment making, leatherware making, machine repairs, engineering, building of irrigation works, community healthcare programmes, schools, vocational training and road construction.

Speaking at the conference, many foreign delegates spoke highly of the Vietnamese Government's humanitarian policy and the effective cooperation of the Vietnamese offices concerned in the reception and reintegration of returnees. They wished for more effective and closer cooperation from Vietnamese offices concerned to carry out the work in 1993 and the following years.

Nong Duc Manh Discusses Constitution

BK3103143293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The State and Law Institute and the Vietnam Institute of Social Science recently held a scientific seminar in Hanoi on the contents of a book commenting on the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Attending the seminar, among others, was Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Party Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the council in charge of this scientific project.

After presenting his views on the structure of the project, Chairman Nong Duc Manh said:

It is the duty of all authors to strictly adhere to the contents of all the stipulations in the Constitution, while further elaborating them so that readers can see all the fundamental principles of the viewpoints of our party and state, as well as the theoretical basis and practicality of various institutions and standards of the Constitution.

EC Ambassador Discusses Vietnam-EC Relations

BK0104070193 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1st—Ambassador Dinh Phu Dinh, head of the Vietnamese mission at the European Community (EC), has paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Hans Van Den Broek, EC commission member in charge of external relations.

Ambassador Dinh Phu Dinh informed the EC official of the current renovation process in Vietnam and expressed

his joy at the fine development of the Vietnam-EC relations over the past two years. He asked the EC to soon hold talks for the two sides to sign a framework agreement on trade and economic cooperation and coordinate the implementation of their already-signed agreement on textile and garment and programme for reintegration of Vietnamese returnees. He also asked for the EC assistance for a number of other projects.

Mr. Hans Van Den Broek highly appreciated Vietnam's renovation policy and its achievements in the renovation process, especially its efforts in the broadening and diversification of its external relations. He also reaffirmed that the EC would take concrete measures to further develop the Vietnam-EC relations in the coming period.

VNA Reports Winter-Spring Rice Planting Figures

BK0104013993 Hanoi VNA in English 1303 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—By March 25 planting had been completed on 2,291,880 hectares of winter-spring rice, representing 98 percent of the plan and 22,000 hectares larger than in the same crop last year.

The northern provinces have planted more than 1,071,000 hectares of winter-spring rice or 97 percent of the plan. The plan was 99.97 percent achieved in the Red River delta.

The southern provinces have planted 1,200,000 hectares or 68 percent of the yearly plan of which 756,750 hectares are in the Mekong River delta or 78.3 percent of the plan.

NHAN DAN Editor-in-Chief Visits Japan

BK0104014593 Hanoi VNA in English 1340 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—The editor-in-chief of the daily NHAN DAN, Huu Tho, visited Japan from March 19-29 as guest of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While there, Mr. Huu Tho had working sessions with the senior officials of the Southeast Asia Department of the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Trade Policy Department, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Asian Economic Development Research Institute of Japan, the Federation of Economic Orgunizations (Keidanren), and the Union of Economic Organizations Kansai in order to study the development of economic relations between Vietnam and Japan. He visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya and Nara.

Mr. Takazawa Torao, member of the House of Representatives and representaive of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Alliance, had an exchange of view with Mr. Huu Tho, who is also deputy Vietnam's National Assembly, on the enhancement of the friendship ties between the parliamentarians of the two countries in the new situation.

Australia

Government 'Unconcerned' With U.S. Trade Report

BK0104080893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The Clinton administration has accused 44 countries of unfair trade practices and named Japan as the worst offender followed by the European Community. The naming of the countries is the first step in a process which could lead to trade sanctions if negotiations failed to result in the removal of barriers regarded as being unfair to American exports.

They were named in a 270-page report prepared by the American Trade Office. A total of 28 pages were devoted to Japan's alleged barriers—up 47 percent from last year's report. Sixteen pages dealt with the European Community—one fewer than last year.

Other countries named in the report included China, Russia, Taiwan, Australia, and Singapore. During the American presidential campaign last year, Mr. Clinton accused the Bush administration of failing to aggresively challenge countries to remove barriers affecting American firms.

Australia says it is unconcerned about being named in the American report. Trade Minister Peter Cook has not seen the copy of the report, but says it is a routine list of countries the United States feels it has trade difficulties with.

Senator Cook says the report has no standing with the international trade watchdog, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—the GATT. The minister says Washington's alleged trade problems with Australia are small in comparison with problems Canberra faces from American wheat subsidies and access to markets in the United States. Sen. Cook says the best way of dealing with all of the trade problems between the United States and Australia would be a successful conclusion to the current Uraguay Round of world trade talks.

Evans: Sanctions Against DPRK May Be Needed

BK0204034093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0329 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 2 (AFP)—The U.N. Security Council may have to consider economic sanctions against North Korea to force it to comply with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans warned Friday.

Speaking in a radio interview recorded in New York and broadcast here, Evans described the North Korean decision as extremely dangerous for regional and world stability.

Evans, who is in New York for discussions at United Nations headquarters, said it was crucial the issue be referred to the Security Council.

"The ball is now in the Security Council's court," he said. "One option is of course to think in terms of economic sanctions against North Korea."

However, he said such a course would require the cooperation of China, which might be difficult to achieve, at least in the short term.

But he said the international community must be seen to be responding strongly to North Korea's stance.

"Certainly I think it's crucial that the international community put its full weight behind redressing the situation because it's a very dangerous one in terms of the long term stability, not only of the region but the world at large."

China, one of the five Security Council members and an ally of North Korea, has indicated it is likely to oppose economic embargo on the basis it could provoke an adverse reaction by North Korea.

"We may see now a period of standoff for some time but I think that will be accompanied by some quite busy behind the scences negotiation and discussion," Evans said.

Asked if the North Korean situation might trigger a regional arms race Evans said there had been a long standing fear the North Koreans were involved in nuclear weapons development.

"And I think the balance of judgment is that they are some distance away, if not from producing a complete weapon, then certainly from having the kind of delivery systems that would make it a serious military threat," he said.

"But nonetheless the worry is there and everyone in the region wants to do something about it."

Evans described the issue as "probably the biggest, most difficult, most sensitive, most important arms control issue now on the international agenda.

"And for that reason, the North Korean situation simply has to be addressed head on."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is to refer North Korea's withdrawal to the Security Council following its failure to meet a March 31 deadline for the inspection of two suspected nuclear sites at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang.

The IAEA resolution, tabled by Australia's IAEA representative, Michael Wilson, on behalf of 21 member states, calls on the council to force North Korea to allow experts to check the two sites.

Government Agrees Not To Deport Vietnamese

BK0104021093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 1 (AFP)—Ethnic Vietnamese refugees who are refused asylum in Australia will be safe from the risk of being deported to Cambodia, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said late Wednesday.

"Clearly in the light of recent events it wouldn't be especially safe to deport a Vietnamese back into Cambodia," he told reporters here.

Evans distinguished between ethnic Vietnamese—who have been the target of bloody attacks by the Khmer Rouge—and other Cambodians.

"So far as the population at large is concerned, all I can say is that now over 330,000 people have been returned from the Thai border camps almost without any incident at all," he said.

This, he said, "is the best evidence that Cambodia—for all the fragility that continues—is not the kind of totally unsafe place to be that some media reports would suggest."

Asked whether the Australian government might deport ethnic Vietnamese while their requests for asylum were being processed, he replied: "We have no intention of doing that in respect of anyone."

Immigration Minister Nick Bolkus announced Tuesday that 24 people, including ethnic Vietnamese from Cambodia, had been granted asylum, some after more than three years in detention.

Another 10 people, including several Cambodians and Vietnamese, were refused refugee status.

Refugee Council of Australia executive director Margaret Piper welcomed Evans's remarks, saying:

"The return of ethnic Vietnamese to Cambodia is something one has to consider very carefully in the light of the things that have taken place. It's very heartening the government is sharing these concerns."

Piper said that as far as she knew, most ethnic Vietnamese from Cambodia had been granted refugee status.

Monthly Current Account Deficit Improves

BK3103011893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By Michal Koslowski]

[Text] Sydney, March 30 (AFP)—A second successive better-than-expected result in the monthly current account deficit Tuesday has further fuelled optimism about Australia's continued economic recovery.

And economists said the February result could lead to downward revisions of the recently re-elected Labor government's deficit forecast for 1992/93 of 15 billion Australian dollars (11.5 billion U.S.).

Australia posted a seasonally adjusted deficit on the current account of 797 million dollars (562 million U.S.) for February, higher than the previous month and slightly higher on a year earlier, according to data released here Tuesday.

The Bureau of Statistics reported that the February deficit compared with 453 million dollars in January and the previous February's deficit of 770 million dollars, amid a marginal fall in exports combined with a small increase in imports.

However the result followed Australia's record export performance in January, its best in five years.

And on an unadjusted basis, the bureau said the deficit fell to 660 million dollars from 717 million dollars in January.

February's seasonally adjusted deficit result was in the mid-range of market expectations, which varied from 655 million dollars to one billion dollars.

Unadjusted exports fell just 0.3 percent on the month to 4.64 billion dollars, while imports rose 3.3 percent to 4.43 billion dollars.

Australia's Treasurer John Dawkins said Australia's balance of payments was showing signs of significant improvement trend, and the February result "offers further encouragement that Australia's international competitiveness continues to improve."

Tuesday's figures were released amid rising optimism about Australia's economic prospects, with 1992 inflation outcome of 0.3 percent the lowest in the industrialised world and interest rates at 20-year lows.

Macquarie Bank senior economist Janet Torney said the result "initially was a good surprise" but when it was discovered that a 300 million dollar purchase of a gas tanker ship on February 28 was not included, the markets reclassified the result as being in line with expectations.

"It was a reasonable set of figures which show that we're not seeing as much deterioration as people were seeing 12 months ago," Torney told AFP.

Australia's recording of its second successive monthly deficit below one billion dollars showed the markets were "not going to see a major budget blowout," she said.

Merrill Lynch economist Nigel Douglas added that "the overall trend is positive."

SBC Domingdez Barry economist Joanne Byrnes said the continued improvement meant the current account deficit for 1992/93 could fall short of the federal government's forecast.

"This is a positive result and it looks like we could get a current account deficit for the fiscal year of 13 billion dollars to 14 billion," Byrnes said.

Macquarie Bank dealers said the Australian dollar rallied above the 71 U.S. cent mark following the announcement of the trade figures and held steady in extremely quiet trading for the remainder of the day.

The current account deficit continues to be dominated by the cost of servicing Australia's 170 billion dollar net foreign debt.

Treasurer Details National Savings Plan

BK0204074893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Sydney, April 2 (AFP)—A national savings strategy aimed at boosting production to world competitive standards and reducing the government budget deficit was announced in a speech Friday by Australian Treasurer John Dawkins.

He said the federal government was committed to reducing its deficit to one percent of gross domestic product (equivalent to four billion Australian dollars or 2.8 billion U.S.) by the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

His speech was aimed at stabilising jittery financial markets which sold off the Australian dollar Thursday because of concern over a budget deficit forecast to reach 16 billion dollars (11 billion U.S.) in the financial year ended June, 1994.

The dollar, which fell almost one U.S. cent to close Thursday at 69..70 U.S. cents, was trading late Friday at 69.87 U.S. after Dawkins' speech.

"It looks like the currency has strengthened a little, although the market is not overly excited about the speech," said Dresdner Bank economist Rob Henderson.

"The treasurer has not really indicated how he plans to reduce the deficit."

Speaking to an accountants lunch in Perth, Dawkins made it clear the government had no plans for an immediate elimination of the deficit.

"I am not saying that all the adjustment to fiscal policy must be made in the one year 1993-94," he said. "That would be precipitate and would jeopardise the recovery."

He promised a quality August budget directed towards the contribution fiscal policy could make to improving national saving over the medium term.

It would include measures which went bevond the 1993/94 financial year to ensure the pre-election promise of a deficit worth one percent of gross domestic product by 1996/97 is kept..

Most of his speech focused on a wider strategy aimed at boosting investment—and reducing unemployment—through improved national savings without risking a blow-out in the recently improved balance of payments.

"The idea is to get growth, but not just any old growth," Dawkins said. "What we need is quality growth: growth in world competitive production and definitely not a mere bubble of speculation in property and like-assets."

The more rapidly this challenge could be met, the more rapidly unemployment could be reduced without hitting a balance of payments constraint.

This required further progress in micro-economic reform and labour relations reforms.

"If our production is to be world competitive production, we shall need to put in place the plant and equipment that is necessary for that," he said.

This would mean increased investment spending by Australian businesses, which he said should be financed through increased national savings, the only alternative being overseas borrowings he said "would mortgage Australia's future".

He said a former senior finance department official Vince Fitzgerald had been commissioned to work with a Treasury team to develop a national savings strategy.

This will make recommendations on medium term household saving trends, the potential for further boosts to saving from superannuation, the ability of business to fund investment from internal funds and the scope to improve public sector savings.

70% Support Republic; 'Worst Week' for Loyalists

BK0104071893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Sydney, April 1 (AFP)—A new poll showing 70 percent support for a republic caps what Australia's staunchest monarchists admitted Thursday has been their worst week on record.

It was the week in which debate shifted from whether there should be a republic to what sort of republic it should be after many conservative leaders switched sides, declaring their belief that a republic is now inevitable.

The latest poll, published in Thursday's Sydney Morning Herald, reveals a significant boost in republican sentiment over the past year and an increase of five percentage points since a survey in January indicated 65 percent support.

It shows that even among conservative Liberal-National Party coalition voters 56 percent favour a republic.

Pro-republican sentiment was shown to be strongest among the best educated, with 84 percent of graduates wanting to sever links with the British monarchy.

Even among voters aged over 55 support for the republic is 56 percent.

But Australia's monarchists have formed a movement called Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy (ACM), vowing to fight on resolutely in an effort to reverse the republican tide and save the constitutional monarchy.

Its convener, lawyer John Waddy agreed Thursday that the monarchists have had their worst week, but added: "I think from here the monarchist cause will strengthen and the wheels will fall off the republican cart.

"While they might see this as our worst week it is not a good week for Australia. The genie is now out of the bottle."

Waddy, a Queens Counsel, told AFP the movement's 1,250 members—including at least one prominent Labor Party member—would be striving to educate people in the advantages of the existing system.

"Our movement stands by something very simple: God, Queen, country and the constitution we already have."

Waddy volunteered that his views may be unfashionable, but added: "I don't mind in the least being unfashionable or being the underdog.

"People will realise that what we've got works extremely well, is well known by everybody and the same debates will go on as went on a century ago."

In the last week, all but one of the conservative leaders in seven states or territories have declared their support at least for debate on the issue, while some have actually declared their support for a republic.

National opposition leader John Hewson is increasingly isolated in the Liberal Party over his refusal to declare his own position, or even to deny a claim that he is "a closet republican."

Hewson, re-elected Liberal leader last week following defeat in the March 13 election, has responded to questions on the issue by calling on pro-republican prime minister Paul Keating to state what kind of a republic he wants.

Keating revived the latest debate during the election campaign by announcing plans for a committee of eminent people to consider options for an Australian republic and foreshadowing a referendum on the issue before the end of the decade.

Australian Republican Movement (ARM) executive officer Tony Pooley said Thursday the latest poll showed that in a period of two years support for a republic has gone from 55 percent to 70.

"The situation is now that eight of 11 conservative leaders in government or opposition around the country is at the very least in favour of the debate and most of these are supporters of the republic," Pooley said.

"Unquestionably, this has been the most significant week in the campaign, and the most significant feature of it has been that the debate has shifted from whether there will be a republic to what sort of a republic it will be."

"Even Dr. Hewson, one of the most conservative people around, is not arguing against a republic. His concern is what kind of republic it will be. He seems to be reserving his judgment until he sees what kind of republic.

Aid Promised to Solomons for Bougainvillians

BK0204094093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Australia is giving Australian $24,000 to the Red Cross in Solomon Islands to assist people fleeing conflict on the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville. The money will be used to provide food, shelter, water, and sanitation facilities. A motorized canoe for transport will also be bought.

The Solomons Red Cross has provided assistance to about 300 people who have fled Bougainville. It said there are another 200 Bougainvillians in need of assistance in the capital, Honiara, and on the islands of (Dizo) and (Caro).

New Zealand

Germany's Kinkel Ends Visit, Prepares for SRV Visit

LD0104120893 Hamburg DPA in German 0835 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Wellington (DPA)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel today ended his political talks in New Zealand on trade as well as on the situation in Russia and the former Yugoslavia. Kinkel met with Prime Minister Jim Bolger in Wellington on Thursday morning (local time). As with his talks yesterday with Foreign Minister Don McKinnon, today's talks focused primarily on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as well as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During a news conference, Kinkel said when questioned about French atomic weapons tests on Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific that he understands New Zealand's concerns. However, when asked whether Germany can exert influence on France to stop the tests in the long term, Kinkel replied: "I would rather not get involved in that". [passage omitted]

Afterwards, Kinkel flew on to Auckland where he paid a courtesy call on Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard and addressed the German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce. He spent the evening in the company of his counterpart, McKinnon.

Kinkel will leave Auckland tomorrow morning (local time) for Vietnam. His journey will include a stopover in the Philippines to meet Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo.